ARMY RESERVE MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2005

GENERATING THE FORCE: "STATE OF THE ARMY RESERVE"

New Health Care Benefits Announced

First Army Reserve Soldier in Operation Iraqi Freedom to Earn Silver Star for Heroism in Fire Fight

Shoe Donations Touch Iraqi "Souls Through Soles"

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

ARMY RESERVE MAGAZINE

ON THE COVER

SPC Victor Peterson runs across a street as PVT Carl Snider provides suppressive fire with a squad automatic weapon against a sniper at a Military Operation in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training facility on Fort Hood, Texas, during Exercise Samurai Sword. SPC Santa Rahola, left, and SSG Donald Wyche, wait their turn to run across the street. The Soldiers are assigned to the 9th Theater Support Command. Samurai Sword is designed to provide warrior-focused training for the unit's enlisted combat service support Soldiers.
(PHOTO BY SFC JOHN VALCEANU)

Also on the cover: The yellow ribbon symbolizes our commitment to honoring those of our Army Reserve Soldiers who have fallen, those who are missing and those who are serving around the globe. It will appear on each issue until they all come home.

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Since 1954.

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Three Iraqi girls wave goodbye to the USAR Combat Cameramen from the 982nd Signal Company, attached to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) after documenting the dissemination of propane to the citizens of Al Quosh, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.
(PHOTO BY SSG KEVIN WASTLER)

SUBMISSIONS · *Army Reserve Magazine* invites articles, story ideas, photographs, and other material of interest to members of the U.S. Army Reserve. Manuscripts and other correspondence for the editor should be addressed to Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Command, Attn: Public Affairs (ARM), 1401 Deshler Street, SW, Fort McPherson, GA 30330-2000, telephone 404-464-8500 or dsn 367-8500. All e-mail submissions should go to usarmag@usarc-emh2.army.mil. All articles ***must*** be submitted electronically or on disk or CD. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will not be returned. Query by letter.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS · ***Do not write the magazine.*** TPU Soldiers should notify their Unit Administrator or Unit Clerk. Members of the IRR and IMA should contact their Personnel Management Team at HRC-STL, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200. AGRs should contact their PMO/PMNCO. Paid subscribers should forward their address change to the Superintendent of Documents, Attn: Mail List Branch SSOM, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Special military distribution recipients may write the editor directly.

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News Briefs

DOD ANNOUNCES NEW HEALTH CARE BENEFIT FOR GUARD AND RESERVE

By Terri Lukach
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A new health care plan, with coverage comparable to that enjoyed by federal employees under the Blue Cross and Blue Shield health insurance plan, will be available to eligible members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families April 25, 2005, Defense Department officials announced at the Pentagon.

The new plan, called Triage Reserve Select (TRS), will serve as a bridge for reserve component members entering or leaving active duty who are not covered by civilian employers or other health insurance plans. It applies to all reserve component personnel who have been activated since Sept. 11, 2001, and who agree to continued service in the Selected Reserve. The coverage will be applied retroactively, officials said.

Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Charles Abell, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas Hall, and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. William Winkenwerder announced the plan at a Pentagon news conference.

"We are committed," Abell said, "to providing the proper combination of compensation and benefits that will allow us to attract and retain the world's best fighting force."

Abell said that while large numbers of National Guard and Reserve members have health insurance through their employers, the department "recognizes the importance of maintaining a continuity of care as they transition from their employers to serve with us and then back, as well as the need for some of them who may be self-employed or who work for small businesses to have health coverage."

TRS is a nationwide, premium-based plan that closely resembles the TRICARE Standard coverage of the active duty force. Its rates are based on the premiums for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Standard Service Benefit Plan for federal government employees. Premiums will be adjusted annually.

Reserve component personnel and their family members now are also eligible for benefits 90 days prior to activation, and for up to six months after demobilization, Hall said.

"For every 90 days of active duty service, Guard and Reserve personnel are eligible for one year of TRICARE coverage for a modest fee," Hall told reporters. "That means, for example, that personnel who have served two years of active duty are eligible for eight years of healthcare coverage."

Winkenwerder praised the members of the National Guard and Reserve. "They have shouldered a tremendous share of the global war on terror in which we are deeply engaged," he said, "and they have performed exceptionally well.

"They mobilized and deployed side by side with active duty forces, many serving in Iraq and Afghanistan," Winkenwerder continued. "They served with pride and loyalty. And while we have, in the past, offered full healthcare benefits for these service members, and for their families, this change will shortly offer a more comprehensive benefit for transition back to private life, and, importantly, the opportunity for those who have served in contingency operations, the option for obtaining TRICARE coverage on a longer term at very attractive rates."

DEMOBILIZED SOLDIERS TO RECEIVE ARMS KITS

By LTC Robert M. Edwards
Chief, Marketing Office,
Chief Army Reserve — Retention Division

Every Army Reserve Soldier who returns from his or her mobilization on active duty receives an Army Reserve Management System (ARMS) kit. The kit consists of a handsome and durable daily planner that is packed full of useful information for redeploying Soldiers. The ARMS kit helps Army Reserve Soldiers maximize their effectiveness in the Army Reserve. Army Reserve Career Counselors utilize ARMS kits to assist in the retention and transition of Soldiers. The ARMS kit includes a planning section that has a monthly calendar, daily planning pages and note pages. Resource directories include important information such as key website addresses and information on benefits and education. The ARMS kits also include an Army Reserve T-shirt, coin, pen, post cards, coin, sticker, ruler, and hat.

When Soldiers receive their ARMS kit they receive information on the opportunities of becoming an Army Reserve Warrant Officer, AGR Recruiter, Retention NCO, and other AGR positions, as well as other full time support positions within the Army Reserve.

If you are interested in finding out more about the ARMS kits or about career opportunities within the Army Reserve, call your local Career Counselor, or call toll free 866-401-9443, extension 593.

REGIONAL SOLDIER SUPPORT CENTERS LAUNCHED; SUPPORT TO SOLDIERS TO IMPROVE

By Andrea Wales
Public Affairs Office
Human Resources Command, St. Louis

When the Chief, Army Reserve (CAR), LTG James R. Helmly, wanted to decentralize career management of Army

Reserve Soldiers and establish Soldier support cells across the country, COL Debra Cook, commander of U.S. Army Human Resources Command-St. Louis (HRC-STL), suggested a way to "build a better mousetrap."

Helmly's aim was to be more responsive to the needs of Soldiers and commanders by having Regional Soldier Support Centers (RSSCs) based at Army Reserve Regional Readiness Commands. However, Cook recommended using existing technology and know-how to do the same thing, while keeping jobs in St. Louis and saving on the costs of relocation, hiring and training.

Part of selling the idea, she said, was showing that career managers and support staff in St. Louis already understood the concerns of the USAR Soldiers and were prepared and able to provide support on a regional basis. Both the CAR, and MG Dorian T. Anderson, commander of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, gave her the go-ahead on the plan. The result is the recent launch and reconfiguration into RSSC teams at HRC-STL.

Cook wanted to make it clear that RSSC members weren't changing their functions and that under the new system they would be able to better support Army Reserve Soldiers to grow in their careers and leader development. "Regional teams are going to give us that ability," she said.

Cook emphasized that RSSC team members were basically "changing seats," and that the population they serve will change. Instead of serving Soldiers in a certain specialty or functional area, members will now serve an entire region. This reorganization will significantly improve support to commanders, as well as Soldiers.

On Jan. 27, 2005 Soldiers and civilian employees from HRC-STL's former Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate (EPMD), Officer Personnel Management Directorate (OPMD), Health Services Directorate (HSD), as well as elements from the Personnel Actions and Services Directorate (PASD), physically relocated within HRC-STL into their new RSSC team areas. The resulting RSSC teams will train and build cohesive teams in the near term to provide improved service for Soldiers and commanders in the future.

The RSSC is organized into three components: Eastern Region, Western Region, and Team AMEDD, with a National Team overseeing the organization (see map). Team AMEDD serves Army Reserve Soldiers associated with the Army Medical Department. The idea of teams serving regional areas is not new. HRC-STL has had regional teams in its PASD directorate for some time. However, the new RSSC reorganization builds on the experience of PASD regional teams, further expanding the concept to Soldier career management functions.

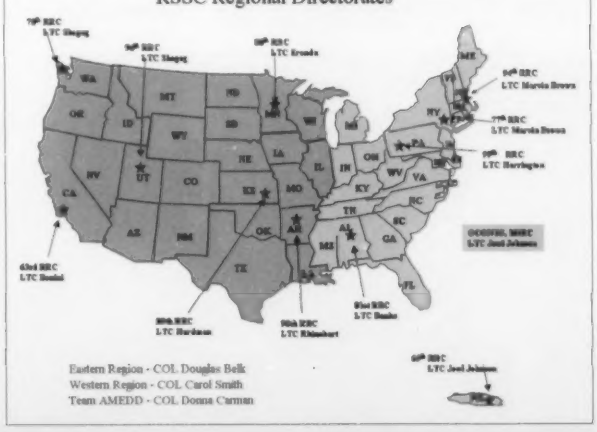
The RSSC is an outgrowth of the Federal Reserve Restructuring Initiatives or FRRI (pronounced "fry"), which serves as the Army Reserve's catalyst for transformation. A major element of FRRI is establishing human resources life-cycle management across the board.

The RSSC's implementation is a tangible means of achieving FRRI objectives, while providing a flexible, adaptable organizational structure to continue to improve support to Soldiers and commanders in the field on a regional basis.

FRRI IMPERATIVES INCLUDE:

1. Reengineer the mobilization process to streamline and automate procedures that are currently time intensive, paper based, and multi-layered.
2. Transform command and control to focus regional commands on training, leader development, unit readiness, and shorter mobilization timelines.
3. Restructure units into a flexible and adaptable force that meets anticipated mission requirements within the resource cap of 205,000 soldiers. Divest structure that is irrelevant, habitually unready, or too costly to modernize.
4. Improve Human Resources staff, technologies, and business practices to assist commanders and leaders at all levels to recruit, develop, train care for soldiers, families, civilians and contractors.
5. Build a rotational-based force so a soldier will only deploy 9–12 months every 5–6 years. Create additional depth in high demand capabilities.
6. Improve individual support to combatant commanders by increasing the number of trained and ready soldiers in critical MOSs available for individual augmentation. Overcome past impediments — systems issues, red tape, and communications problems.

RSSC Regional Directorates



RESERVE CENTER HONORS CONGRESSMAN YOUNG

By Hector Diaz
Public Affairs Office
Army Reserve Medical Command

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. — On Saturday, Feb. 5, before a crowd of 200 dignitaries and military personnel, The Honorable C.W. Bill Young (R-Fla.) and Pentagon officials assembled at the Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Pinellas Park, Fla., to mark the opening of the $47-million dollar state-of-the-art facility with a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony.

The new C.W. Bill Young Armed Forces Reserve Center, named after the current Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, will support military personnel from both the Army Reserve Medical Command Headquarters and the Florida National Guard. The modern 236,752 square foot facility provides a multitude of services and functions that include: administrative activities for Army Reserve and National Guard, an assembly area, education and classroom facilities, and special training and support areas.

The dedication ceremony attracted local dignitaries and Pentagon leadership including Chief of the Army Reserve LTG James Helmly, Director of the Army National Guard LTG Roger Shultz, Army Surgeon General LTG Kevin Kiley, and Adjutant General for Florida MG Douglas Burnett. Burnett asked the junior Soldier in attendance, SPC Shannon Bridges, to assist Congressman Young with the ceremonial ribbon cutting.

"This is a great opportunity to showcase the greatness of your Army — America's Army today," explained Helmly prior to cutting the ribbon. "Taxpayers get double-duty and more for their money with this high tech Armed Forces Reserve Center." Helmly went on to say that "Soldiers from the United States Army Reserve and the Army National Guard serve and train side-by-side in this beautiful, very efficient, and effective new facility."

> When you look inside, I think you'll be very, very impressed. But if you want to see something really beautiful, look into the eyes, the hearts, the souls, of (military personnel) in uniform today.

Helmly said, "The AFRC is home to the new Army Reserve Medical Command which will command and control all of our Army Reserve medical Soldiers across the United States and Puerto Rico. It is appropriate that we honor and thank the namesake of this Reserve Center Chairman C.W. Bill Young, a leader of stature and strength."

"These are challenging and dangerous times for our Army and our nation; but as grateful as we are for this fine facility, it is merely brick and mortar. Chairman Young's greatest concerns are not for buildings, but for Soldiers who train here. We're proud to have Soldiers who will go forward to save the lives of other Soldiers on the battlefield," Helmly added.

During his speech, Young adamantly expressed the importance of this new facility for military training. "We're proud of this facility, and believe it is beautiful," Young said before cutting the ribbon and offering tours of the facility. "When you look inside, I think you'll be very, very impressed. But if you want to see something really beautiful, look into the eyes, the hearts, the souls, of (military personnel) in uniform today. If you want to see something really beautiful, that's where you'll find it, because they are all volunteers. Nobody made them serve in the military. They do it because they love this nation."

The C.W. Bill Young Armed Forces Reserve Center is situated on more than 58 acres in the Gateway Center, a business-residential-industrial complex in Pinellas Park north of St. Petersburg. In addition to the main structure, this high tech facility has state-of-the-art features that include: an access-controlled admittance system, cast-in-place concrete and humidity controlled vaults in each heated storage building, an energy efficient, motion-activated lighting system and T-1 based information management architecture.

The grounds also include new retention and detention ponds, landscaping, perimeter security fencing, and retaining walls to restrict access. The AFRC's integrated support system consists of an Organizational Maintenance Shop,

PHOTO: HECTOR DIAZ

Cutting the ribbon commemorating the opening of the new C.W. Young Armed Forces Center, from left is LTG James R. Helmly, LTG Roger Schultz, MG Douglas Burnett, Representative C.W. Bill Young, SPC Shannon Bridges, Michael Savidakis and Terrance Short.

with a fuel station, a vehicle wash station, a lubricant distribution system, two unheated storage buildings, a helicopter-landing pad and a postal facility.

The training center is home to the new Army Reserve Medical Command (AR-MEDCOM) Headquarters, the 319th Medical Detachment, and the Headquarters, Alpha and Charlie Companies of the 53rd Separate Infantry Brigade, Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG), and the 253rd Military Intelligence Company, FLARNG.

"The AR-MEDCOM will soon have battle command for approximately 30,000 Soldiers assigned to 258 medical units stationed throughout the United States and Puerto Rico."

The AR-MEDCOM, commanded by MG Kenneth Herbst, will soon have battle command for approximately 30,000 Soldiers assigned to 258 medical units stationed throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. The AR-MEDCOM headquarters workforce will consist of Active Guard Reserve (AGR) full time military, and Army civilians. The permanent workforce will be supported by contract personnel. The AR-MEDCOM activation ceremony is scheduled for October 2005.

VOLUNTEERING FOR MOBILIZATION: HRC-STL SETS PROCEDURES

By LTC Burt Masters
Public Affairs Officer
Human Resources Command, St. Louis

The Army's Human Resources Command — St. Louis (HRC-STL) is seeking volunteers from throughout the U.S. Army Reserve and Army Retirees for voluntary mobilization in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).

Army Reserve Soldiers (Troop Program Unit, IRR and IMA) should visit the HRC-STL Web site (**https://www.hrc.army.mil**) volunteer section (direct link: **https://www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil/soldierservices/mobilization/voluntarymob.asp**) or contact the HRC-STL Communications Hub Office (CHO) at 1-800-318-5298 or commercial (314) 592-0123 for application procedures. Retirees should visit: **https://www.hrc.army.mil** (direct link: **https://www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil/soldierservices/mobilization/retireemobilization.asp**) or contact the CHO.

- **Troop Program Unit (TPU):** TPU Soldiers are required to work with their chain of command for mobilization opportunities. Soldiers can also have their volunteer status added to their HRC St. Louis records by contacting the CHO. In addition, they may login to the HRC-STL portal (**https://www.hrc.army.mil**) to volunteer (using AKO username/password) and selecting "TPU Volunteer" link from the left-side menu.

- **IRR and IMA:** Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) or Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) Soldiers may request to be listed as a volunteer by logging into the HRC-STL Web portal (**https://www.hrc.army.mil**), using AKO username/password and selecting the "Volunteer" link from the left-side menu or by contacting the CHO. If their skill is required, a career manager will contact the Soldier with further details.

- **Retirees:** The Secretary of the Army's approval is required to mobilize retirees. HRC St. Louis' Retiree Mobilization Division is the mobilization planning and recall center for U.S. Army retirees. HRC-STL maintains Soldier data for all retirees in the Total Army Personnel Database-Reserve (TAPDB-R) and can access retiree records maintained by the National Personnel Record Center (NRPC). Further details on volunteering are contained in the HRC-STL Web site (**https://www.hrc.army.mil**) or through the CHO.

HRC-STL SUPPORTS SOLDIERS DURING MOBILIZATION AND DEMOBILIZATION PROCESS

By LTC Burt Masters,
Public Affairs Officer
Human Resources Command, St. Louis

At the direction of the Department of the Army, the Army's Human Resources Command — St. Louis (HRC-STL) continues the involuntary mobilization of Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Soldiers in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).

Since September 2001, 5,454 IRR Soldiers have been mobilized and over 3,500 remain on active duty. In the latest round of IRR mobilizations (since July 2004) over 3,700 IRR Soldiers received mobilization orders to fill vacancies in mobilized Army Reserve and National Guard units, with reporting dates from August 2004 through December 2005. Additionally, since 9/11 there are more than 3,000 IRR Soldier volunteers, with 500 mobilized.

"The Army's Human Resource Command is seeking volunteers from throughout the U.S. Army Reserve and Army Retirees for voluntary mobilization in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)."

In conducting IRR mobilizations, HRC-STL receives requirements from the Army's G1 and researches the IRR database to identify ready Soldiers to meet Army requirements. The HRC-STL Plans Directorate mobilization operations division verifies the status of IRR Soldiers and facilitates their mobilization in concert with HRC-STL's Liaison Officers (LNOs). These LNOs serve at mobilization stations and work closely with installations to expedite Soldier processing and resolve Soldier mobilization and training issues.

> The intent for IRR Soldiers identified to fill Troop Program Units is to link the Soldier up with his/her designated unit at the mobilization station for unit collective training prior to deployment.

The HRC-STL Commander, COL Debra Cook, and the HRC-STL staff actively engage with HRC-Alexandria, the Army G-1, and installation counterparts to facilitate IRR Soldier mobilization, as well as to expedite demobilization processing at the end of the Soldier's active duty tour.

Within five days after receiving mobilization orders, IRR Soldiers receive a detailed information and family support packet that explains the mobilization process, benefits and entitlements, and resources available to the Soldier and his/her family. This packet also outlines Soldier employment/re-employment rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). Included in the packet and on Soldiers' orders are toll free assistance numbers to the HRC-STL mobilization hotline and Communications Hub Office.

Additionally, extensive mobilization and demobilization information is posted on the HRC-STL Web site (**https://www.hrc.army.mil**), including what IRR Soldiers can expect during mobilization and agency/installation links.

By Army policy, IRR Soldiers are given a minimum of 30 days advance notice prior to reporting to their designated mobilization station. Upon arrival, Soldiers undergo standardized processing consisting of medical and dental screening, input to the Army's pay and personnel systems, security clearance validation/initiation, identification card and tags and uniform issue, and other administrative actions. This process takes about three days.

Following administrative processing, IRR Soldiers receive seven to ten days of Common Task Training (CTT) in basic Soldier skills including weapons qualification, nuclear, biological and chemical training, first aid, and law of land warfare. Upon CTT validation, depending on the individual's situation and training status, they will attend either approximately three weeks of follow-on Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) refresher training or MOS reclassification training. The MOS specific training may occur at a different installation from where in-processing and CTT occurred.

Just prior to training completion, Soldier assignment instructions are finalized and forwarded to the installation commander, who publishes temporary change of station orders transferring Soldiers to their unit assignment. The intent for IRR Soldiers identified to fill Troop Program Units is to link the Soldier up with his/her designated unit at the mobilization station for unit collective training prior to deployment. Final IRR Soldier assignments are made based upon the needs of the Army considering the Soldier's rank, specialty, and skills.

HRC-STL Mobilization Hotline: **1-800-325-4361** or commercial **(314) 592-0559**. Communications Hub Office: **1-800-318-5298** or commercial **(314) 592-0123**.

SAFETY TIPS OFFERED FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS

By Paul Leach
Safety Office
U.S. Army Reserve

With the summer season approaching and the start of high temperatures, and sunny days, many Soldiers, civilians and their families will engage in outdoor activities. In preparation for these activities, keep in mind safety first by following some of these basic safety tips.

Keep barbecue grills far away from anything that can burn — your homes, cars, dry vegetation. Barbecue grills must never be used inside the home. In addition to being a fire hazard, a barbecue grill can easily cause carbon monoxide poisoning. For charcoal grills, only use starter fluids designed for charcoal grills — never use gasoline. For gas grills, always store the gas cylinder outside and turn off the valve when not in use.

Water sports such as boating, swimming and jet skiing are a great way to cool off. A personal flotation device is the best defense against drowning. Make sure to use them when boating and jet skiing. Swim in authorized areas and use the buddy system. Always be alert to your surroundings.

LAWN MOWING SAFETY

Before mowing the lawn, police the area. Wear long leg pants and sturdy shoes. Before refueling the mower, allow the engine time to cool. Do not allow small children to ride on your lap while mowing the lawn. Ensure all guards are in place before mowing.

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend an outdoor display put on by professionals. Fireworks are designed to burn and explode, and injuries caused by fireworks can result in burns, lacerations, amputations and blindness. Even sparklers burn as hot as 1200 degrees Fahrenheit.

> The designated driver is the hero — the one who can stop the unnecessary deaths on our highways.

Don't drive while drunk or after consuming two or more drinks in one hour — in fact, **Don't Drink and Drive!** Identify a designated driver. The designated driver is the hero — the one who can stop the unnecessary deaths on our highways. Don't forget to **BUCKLE UP!**

Remember to participate in the Army Safety Management Information System (ASMIS-1) Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) Risk Assessment prior to departing on leave, pass, TDY, or PCS. ASMIS-1 can be found on the Army Safety Center Web site at **https://safety.army.mil**.

REENLISTMENT CRITERIA CHANGED TO ALLOW FOR BONUSES WITH LESS SERVICE

By LTC Robert M. Edwards
Chief, Marketing
Office, Chief Army Reserve — Retention Division

On Dec. 18, 2004, the U.S. Congress authorized increased reenlistment bonus amounts for Army Reserve Soldiers. The bonuses for a six year reenlistment were increased from $5,000 to $15,000 and for a three year reenlistment from $2,500 to $7,500.

> The bonuses for a six year reenlistment were increased from $5,000 to $15,000 and for a three year reenlistment from $2,000 to $7,500.

Prior to the enactment of this legislation only Soldiers with 14 years of service or less were eligible. The reenlistment criteria have now been changed to allow Soldiers with 16 years of service or less to be eligible for the bonuses.

According to MSG Debbie Earle of the 77th Regional Readiness Command (RRC) Retention Office, the bonus has created a "great deal of excitement" among Soldiers eligible to reenlist. Soldiers like SPC David G. Holbert of the 3/309th Training Support Battalion, Vehicle Repair mechanic, stated he was definitely excited about the bonus and planned to use his $15,000 bonus to pay off debts and go shopping for a new 4x4 pickup truck. His career counselor SFC Louis Stevens sees a great future not only for SPC Holbert, but for the new incentive. SFC Stevens states, "It is a great retention tool and is helping Soldiers make that decision to reenlist." ARM

SPC David G. Holbert holds the ceremonial check for $15,000 for reenlisting for six years with LTC Peter J. Versteeg, left and 1LT Richard A. Jennejahn of the 3rd Battalion, 309th Regiment, 78th Training Support Division. Holbert was the first Soldier in the 77th RRC to receive the "Big Bonus Check."

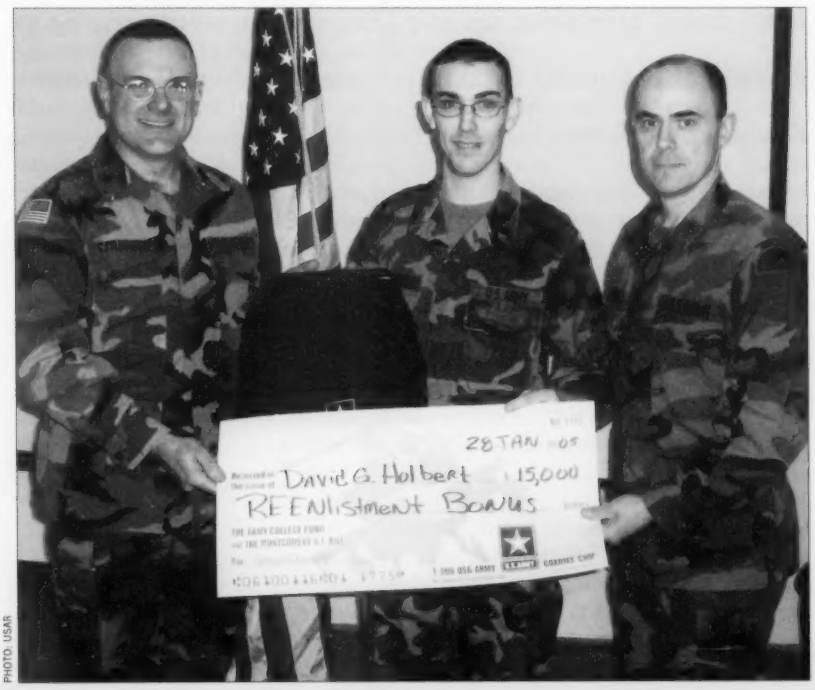
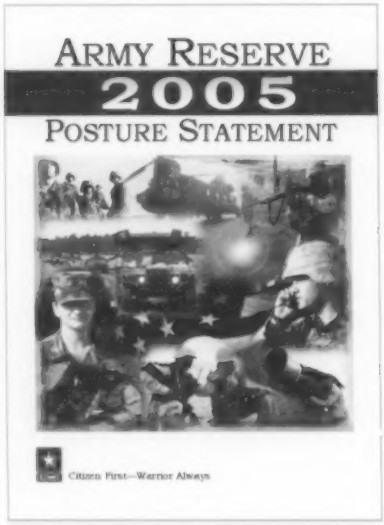


PHOTO: USAR

CORRECTION

On page 37, Spring 2005 issue of *Army Reserve Magazine*, awards and decorations of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team were cited. The correct listing of the campaign ribbon should have read, "Presidential Unit Citation."

GENERATING THE FORCE



CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE PRESENTS "STATE OF THE ARMY RESERVE" BEFORE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Editor's note:
The following is excerpted from the *2005 Army Reserve Posture Statement* presented by LTG James R. Helmly, Chief, Army Reserve before the Committees and Sub-Committees of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives during the First Session of the 109th Congress, April 2005. The annual *Army Reserve Posture Statement* is an unclassified summary of Army Reserve roles, missions, accomplishments, plans and programs. Designed to reinforce the Chief, Army Reserve's posture and budget testimony before Congress, the posture statement serves a broad audience as a basic reference on the state of the Army Reserve. The document is available in its entirety on the Army Reserve Web site at **www.armyreserve.army.mil/usar**.

THE NEW FORCE

The all-volunteer Army is required by its nature to constantly regenerate itself quantitatively and qualitatively if it is to survive. As with any living entity, it must change to accommodate external forces and events that impinge upon it and its mission. In the face of external change, the Army Reserve is restructuring its forces and rebalancing its skill inventories to support the Army Reserve Expeditionary Force (AREF).

It also seeks to provide sustainability and predictability in mobilization and utilization of Reserve forces (while avoiding wholesale cross-leveling and its inevitable results). At the same time, we want to improve management efficiency, and focus training on skills and specialties required by the combatant commanders. These force-generation changes mirror similar major initiatives throughout the rest of the Army. Because they are being pursued concurrently while we are at war, they are complex, intricate, time-consuming, and dynamic; but once completed, they will enable us to remain engaged as an integral, complementary, participant in an expeditionary army with campaign qualities. As we noted earlier, they are an essential precondition to winning the war on terror.

RESTRUCTURING THE FORCE

Significant changes originally undertaken as a part of the Federal Reserve Restructuring Initiative (FRRI) remain central to the Army Reserve's strategic vision for regenerating and transforming its command and control force structure. In keeping with the *National Defense Strategy*, *the National Military Strategy*, OSD's comprehensive

review of *Reserve Component Contributions to National Defense*, and the strategic global military environment, these changes provide the basis and rationale for moving from the older Army Reserve regional support commands, to operationally deployable commands. Peacetime command and control has been replaced with wartime readiness.

OPTIMIZING THE FORCE

The Army Reserve's Citizen-Soldiers have been continuously mobilized since 1995. Prior to September 11th, the annual manday usage for the Reserve components had leveled off at a steady state of about 12.5 million per year (the equivalent of more that two traditional Army divisions). From the very beginning of the Global War on Terror, we have known that it would be a long war that had to be sustainable in order to be won. Because many of our military formations were misaligned to meet the current threat, our legacy force structure was being stressed in ways that we had not anticipated by missions that we had not contemplated (or if we did envision them, we did not foresee the degree and frequency to which they now occurred). This was particularly true in some military specialties that were assigned entirely or nearly so to the Reserve components. Military police, transportation, petroleum and water distribution, civil affairs and psychological operations units were among those finding themselves spread thin by heavier-than-anticipated demands for their specialized support services. They had been aligned for a different war than we were now fighting, a war based on a whole other set of operational assumptions that were no longer useful and functional. As a result, these units were experiencing sufficient stress to potentially challenge our ability to sustain the long push needed to bring the second Gulf War and the Global War on Terror to successful conclusions.

Based upon an analysis ordered by the Secretary of Defense, the military services undertook a comprehensive assessment of their forces and components, seeking ways to relieve the stress on certain high-demand-low-density units, particularly those that are found primarily in the Reserve components. "Optimizing" is intended to refocus Total Army assets on current and emerging missions. It will allow us to trim away low-demand force structure and convert it to directly usable forces to meet missions that would otherwise require more frequent repetitive mobilizations and deployments. More than 100,000 Active, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve spaces have been earmarked for restructuring and in some cases elimination between 2004 and 2011 as Cold-War over-structure. Specifically, the intent of optimizing is to

- Develop a flexible, modular force structure with a proper force mix and depth to sustain homeland defense, major combat operations, smaller-scale contingencies, stability operations, and other requirements of our defense strategy.
- Optimize the Army's ability to respond with a predominantly AC force within the first 15 days of an operation and ensure sufficient AC-RC force structure depth to sustain and support both operational rotations and contingencies.
- Develop plans to fully man Active and Reserve component units and improve the readiness of all our formations.
- Resource high-demand unit requirements by eliminating less-utilized force structure and capabilities.

Optimizing paves the path to modularity, stability, and predictability. It successfully regenerates and restructures the force, creating a flexible, modular Army Reserve that provides stability and predictability for our Soldiers, their families, communities and employers. This initiative will result in a rapid and responsive, campaign-quality Army, while maintaining the depth necessary to meet any threat across the full spectrum of conflict. We will eliminate unnecessary Cold-War over-structure to pay the bill; there will be no reduction in the number of Soldiers. Sustained operations will be the norm for the future, so we must optimize our capabilities to meet this reality.

Our formations must be relevant to the defense and military strategies — modular, interoperable, and agile. They will optimize our capabilities and sustainability by expanding in specialties that are most in demand. We remain convinced that manning our forces at 100 percent will increase readiness and reduce turbulence for Soldiers and their units. We further believe that building rotational-based, modular force packages will provide predictability and sustainability for Soldiers in the Army Reserve.

THE ARMY MODULAR FORCE

Closely aligned to these force structure changes is the issue of the Army Modular Force. The Army has historically favored mobilizing its assets as discrete units. This practice helps ensure unit efficiency and morale as well as effectiveness by allowing Soldiers who have trained and worked together to be mobilized and to serve together. One of the lessons of the campaigns of the last 15 years is that our traditional NATO/ Cold-War divisional structure is no longer optimal for the nature of the wars we are now fighting. Expeditionary formations must be smaller, more adaptable, and provide combatant commanders greater flexibility when they task organize their forces to meet emerging threats and evolving situations. The intent is to develop interchangeable units (modules) that can be assigned with a minimum of cross-leveling of assets, across a spectrum of task-organized forces in what the Army calls its "plug and play" mode. All of the components of the Army share this organizational imperative. The Army Reserve is incorporating this principle in its restructuring and rebalancing initiatives, and has allocated 30,000 spaces to support modularization of its force. ARM

WELL-BEING

ARMY RESERVE EMPLOYER RELATIONS IS KEY TO "OPTIMIZING A SHARED WORKFORCE"

By MAJ Ted Hart
Program Manager, USAR Employer Relations
Well-Being Office
U.S. Army Reserve

Army Reserve civilian employers are truly our "Patriot Partners." In 1775, General George Washington stated, "When we assumed the Soldier we did not lay aside the Citizen." The Army Reserve is a community-based force versus the Active Army which is primarily installation-based. This requires us to develop and maintain relationships that provide local services to Soldiers and families. Networking with all available community resources is a key for us and Army Reserve civilian employers are the centerpiece because of our "shared workforce."

Without civilian employer support it would be difficult at best to sustain a credible force. At the height of the Civil War, Frederick Douglas told President Abraham Lincoln, "Mr. President, you are fighting with your right hand behind your back," referring to his unwillingness to allow slaves to fight. As a community based force, the community is our strength. To not leverage the corporate community is indeed fighting with our right hand behind our backs.

Army Reserve end strength is being severely challenged by the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) environment. Having a strong on-going Army Reserve-civilian employer relationship makes good practical business sense. Good "employer relations" is a retention force multiplier and supports the Army Reserve G-1's top two priorities:

- Manning the warfight
- Recruiting and retention

Basic employer support is mandated by Title 38, United States Code, Chapter 43 referred to as the United Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act or USERRA. Soldiers are covered by USERRA for up to five years of cumulative military service. The five-year limit is for each employer. If Soldiers change employers they are eligible for a new five year limit with the new employer. All involuntary service is exempt from the five-year limit.

In addition, the following categories of service are exempt from the five year limit:

- Required training (includes weekend battle assemblies, annual training and required professional development training), USERRA Section 4312(c) (3).
- Services on active duty (other than for training) because of a war or national emergency declared by the President or Congress (e.g. in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom), USERRA Section 4312 (c) (4) (B).

YOUR RIGHTS UNDER USERRA

THE UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT

USERRA protects the job rights of individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment positions to undertake military service. USERRA also prohibits employers from discriminating against past and present members of the uniformed services, and applicants to the uniformed services.

REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

You have the right to be reemployed in your civilian job if you leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and:

- ☆ you ensure that your employer receives advance written or verbal notice of your service;
- ☆ you have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with that particular employer;
- ☆ you return to work or apply for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and
- ☆ you have not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

If you are eligible to be reemployed, you must be restored to the job and benefits you would have attained if you had not been absent due to military service or, in some cases, a comparable job.

RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION

If you:

- ☆ are a past or present member of the uniformed service;
- ☆ have applied for membership in the uniformed service; or
- ☆ are obligated to serve in the uniformed service;

then an employer may not deny you any of the following because of this status:

- ☆ initial employment;
- ☆ reemployment;
- ☆ retention in employment;
- ☆ promotion; or
- ☆ any benefit of employment.

In addition, an employer may not retaliate against anyone assisting in the enforcement of USERRA rights, including testifying or making a statement in connection with a proceeding under USERRA, even if that person has no service connection.

HEALTH INSURANCE PROTECTION

- ☆ If you leave your job to perform military service, you have the right to elect to continue your existing employer-based health plan coverage for you and your dependents for up to 24 months while in the military.
- ☆ Even if you don't elect to continue coverage during your military service, you have the right to be reinstated in your employer's health plan when you are reemployed, generally without any waiting periods or exclusions (e.g., pre-existing condition exclusions) except for service-connected illnesses or injuries.

ENFORCEMENT

- ☆ The U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) is authorized to investigate and resolve complaints of USERRA violations.
- ☆ For assistance in filing a complaint, or for any other information on USERRA, contact VETS at **1-866-4-USA-DOL** or visit its **website at http://www.dol.gov/vets**. An interactive online USERRA Advisor can be viewed at **http://www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm**.
- ☆ If you file a complaint with VETS and VETS is unable to resolve it, you may request that your case be referred to the Department of Justice or the Office of Special Counsel, depending on the employer, for representation.
- ☆ You may also bypass the VETS process and bring a civil action against an employer for violations of USERRA.

The rights listed here may vary depending on the circumstances. This notice was prepared by VETS, and may be viewed on the internet at this address: http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/poster.pdf. Federal law requires employers to notify employees of their rights under USERRA, and employers may meet this requirement by displaying this notice where they customarily place notices for employees.

VETS

U.S. Department of Labor
1-866-487-2365

ESGR
EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

1-800-336-4590

Publication Date—February 2005

- Service on active duty (other than for training) to fulfill a critical mission or requirement as determined by a service secretary (e.g. Secretary of the Army, Navy, Air Force or the Secretary of Homeland Security for the Coast Guard) USERRA Section 4312 (c) (4) (D).

Soldiers eligible for USERRA protections must provide prior notice to their employer (preferably in writing), serve under honorable conditions, and report back to work in a timely manner.

A recent amendment was enacted December 10, 2004. The amendment requires employers to post or provide a notice to employees of their rights, benefits and obligations. The Department of Labor completed and released the design for the new USERRA poster March 10, 2005.

The Army Reserve Employer Relations (ARER) program is a Department of Defense mandated commander's program. The basic tenet of the program is to build a positive ongoing relationship with Army Reserve civilian employers to enhance Army Reserve Soldier Retention and Readiness.

ARER's specific mission is to "Enhance Army Reserve retention and readiness by advocating 'good employer relations' creating a continuum of viable economic support assisting Soldier well-being during military service."

The Department of Defense and Department of the Army civilian employer relations mandates include:

- **(DoDI) Department of Defense Instruction 7730.54** Directs Army Reserve Soldiers to provide their civilian employment status, their employer's name(s), their employer's complete mailing address, their civilian job titles and the total number of years in their civilian occupation to include timely notification of any employment changes.

- **DoDI 1205.22** Directs all Military Reserve Components to develop policies, establish guidance, obtain technical assistance, and provide consultation and resource necessary to implement and promote employer support programs.

- **DoDI 1205.12** Directs each Reserve Component headquarters and Reserve Regional Command to establish points of contact who can render assistance in employment and reemployment.

- **Department of Defense Directive 1250.1** Directs the Secretaries of the Military Department to provide initial and recurring Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Right Act (USERRA) and employer relations training to all Reserve component members in accordance with DoDI 1205.12, sec. 6.1.

- **Department of the Army (DA) Pamphlet 600-81 (3-21d)** Mandates mobilized Soldiers to be informed of their employment and reemployment rights and responsibilities under the USERRA (38 U.S.C. chapter 43 "USERRA"). This is action required to be annotated on DA Form 7425, section VI for SRP checks.

The Army Reserve has stood up the ARER program under the Well-Being Division of the Army Reserve G-1, set goals and objectives to satisfy all DoD Directives — Instructions and DA requirements, and identified major subordinate command points of contact (ARER Coordinators) to execute the program.

The Army Reserve is developing programmatic guidance and establishing a concept plan to fully implement the ARER program. The ARER training program will consist of USERRA familiarization, Mitigation Techniques, Meditation Services, Soldier/Employer Relations (Military Liaison) training and Employer Outreach/Awareness.

The Army Reserve is defending our nation at home and abroad, shoulder to shoulder with the active Army. Employers are sharing their most precious assets — their employees — to make this happen. Many are going beyond what is required by law illustrating America's greatness as a nation. Through their support, America's employers are inextricably linked to the nation's defense and they preserve heritage and value of a strong militia.

Ultimately, employers benefit from the values, experiences and leadership skills that Warrior-Citizens bring home. The Army Reserve is taking great care to return Warrior-Citizens to their homes and employers prepared for reintegration into civil life.

For the Army Reserve to meet its statutory edict, "to provide trained and ready units and Soldiers to the Army, whenever required," we must leverage the civilian business community in "Optimizing a Shared Workforce." ARM

Soldiers Meet Their Pupil Pen Pals

By SGT Jasmine Chopra
326th Finance Group

Soldiers who recently returned from a year-long mission in Kuwait were greeted with songs, salutes, and sweets from dozens of wide-eyed students February 15, 2005 at Stowers Elementary School in Cerritos, Calif.

Soldiers in the 376th Personnel Services Battalion, part of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command, and pupils at Stowers, exchanged letters, gifts and pictures as part of a pen pal program devised last year by eight-year-old Ian Reyes and his third grade teacher Rhonda McNutt. McNutt noticed that Ian Reyes, son of CPT Armin Reyes, commander of the 376th, was heartbroken that his father had to go away for so long. She thought she might be able to help ease Ian Reyes' woe and encourage writing and learning for all of her students by starting a pen pal program linking students to deployed Soldiers. Teachers and students heard of the program and eagerly joined in, especially the first grade class at Stowers, since Julia Reyes, CPT Armin Reyes' daughter, was a student in that class. Nearly 300 letters were exchanged throughout the year-long deployment.

After a hearty "welcome home" and "thank you" to the troops from school and local city officials, pen pals finally got to meet each other face to face.

SGT Keri Daniel, 28, a human resource specialist in the 376th, described the surprise and excitement of receiving a letter from her pen pal for the first time.

"One day there was mail call and we all received a letter from a child back home," she said. "It was totally unexpected."

Daniel, formerly a teacher, now a site supervisor and health specialist with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, was so touched by the letters she received from seven-year-old Taylor Hirata, that she archived them in a beautiful scrapbook.

Hirata gave Daniel a handmade Valentine's Day card upon meeting.

"She looks like I thought she would look like," said the shy, black-haired, rosy-cheeked, second-grader of the brunette, tan, dark-eyed Daniel.

Were you shot at? Were there kids there? What do the houses look like? What do the Iraqi people look like? What did you eat? Where did you live? Was it hot? Was it dangerous there? Did you see a bomb? These were some of the questions that students posed to the Soldiers.

SGT Chris Suk, also a human resource specialist in the 376th, said the letters served as a morale booster.

"It's amazing how even though these kids are so young, they know that the word Soldier has something to do with freedom," said Suk, a manager at the Korean Youth Community Center, a non-profit organization which serves recently immigrated, economically disadvantaged Korean youth and their families, as well as the multi-ethnic community of Los Angeles.

Suk's pen pal, nine-year-old Monique McCormick, asked questions about Suk's safety and she wrote him about her favorite hobbies.

"I wanted him to know that I was in track and that I love gymnastics and school," said McCormick, an athletic, petite, fourth grader. "It's so exciting to get to meet him," she said, smiling from ear to ear as she gripped his hand. "I'm happy he is here."

The afternoon ended with handshakes, hugs, and happiness about the Soldiers' safe return home. ARM

SPC Chris Suk, a human resource specialist in the 376th Personnel Services Battalion, meets nine-year-old Monique McCormick. The two were pen pals during Suk's year-long deployment in Kuwait as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. McCormick met Suk Feb 15, 2005 at a welcome home event at Stowers Elementary School in Cerritos, Calif.

PHOTO: SGT JASMINE CHOPRA

Update on OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

PHOTO: SSG KERNELL HALL

Soldiers assigned to the 450th Military Police Company pull security outside Gulbahar High School in Afghanistan. The Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team donated toys, clothes, and school supplies on behalf of a church in the U.S. to the Gulbahar High School and Orphanage in Afghanistan.

SHOE DONATIONS TOUCH IRAQI "SOULS THROUGH SOLES" WITH KICKS FOR KIDS PROGRAM

By Paul Adams
Army Reserve Public Affairs

If you ask SGT Addie Collins about the war in Iraq, she could talk about military life in a combat zone, carrying an M-16 rifle everywhere she went and being on the look-out for suicide bombers and the physical and emotional carnage an improvised explosive device (IED) leaves behind. Or she could tell you about the 15,000 smiles on the faces of Iraqi children and people that she brought joy to.

Through a program called "Kicks for Kids" she started in 2004 while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the broadcast journalist with the 222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment, Bell, Calif. was looking for a way to give back individually in Iraq because she felt like the situation was spiraling out of control. "I needed to do something I could control," Collins began. "One day I was throwing out a pair of sneakers I felt were too run down for me and the next day I saw an Iraqi we pay to clean our living area wearing the Nike shoes I threw out. [The idea] clicked right there."

Collins thought that she could give the Iraqis, mainly children, shoes donated by Americans looking to contribute to the war effort. She immediately sent her friends and family an e-mail telling them about the Kicks for Kids program and asked them to send her shoes instead of care packages.

"Word of mouth spread and after four months, I had roughly 15,000 pair of shoes donated from Americans all over the world," Collins said proudly. "This program helped heal me, a part of me because I couldn't make peace with the war that surrounded me."

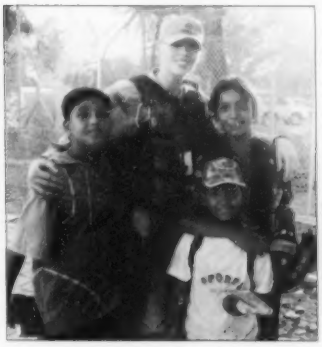


PHOTO: SGT ADDIE COLLINS

SGT Addie Collins joins three Iraqi children who were recipients of shoes in the Kicks for Kids program.

Collins said that she felt validated because she saw a need and did what she could to help. "Americans also felt good because it was a chance for them to help in a tangible way — much more than a care package, pat on the back or e-mail. We touched souls through soles with Kicks for Kids," she said.

According to Collins there were all types of shoes that came in. Old shoes, new shoes, sandals, sneakers, hi-heels, cowboy boots, clogs, even snow shoes were sent. Old shoes to Americans are new shoes to Iraqis who have nothing. "It was fantastic to see such diversity… and the amazing thing is there was a pair of feet for every single pair which was so generously donated," said Collins.

Collins says that the program continued after her departure from Iraq in late 2004 and she is hopeful that the campaign will continue for a long time.

"My goal is to establish Kicks for Kids as a non-profit organization that spreads throughout Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Asia. For now, however, the shoes are being sent only to Iraq."

(Editor's note: Shoe donations for Kicks for Kids Program should be sent to: LTC Stephen Stewart, c/o Kicks for Kids, CMO IAC, APO AE 09316)

A young boy tries on a pair of shoes that was donated in the Kicks for Kids program. Every pair of shoes that were donated found someone who needed them.

PHOTO: SGT ADDIE COLLINS

A crateful of donated shoes arrives in Baghdad for delivery to the Iraqi children. More than 15,000 pairs of shoes were donated in four months.

PHOTO: SGT ADDIE COLLINS

MPs MAKE A DIFFERENCE DURING IRAQI WAR

By Bruce Hill
Public Affairs Office
77th Regional Readiness Command

BAGHDAD — A year can seem to evaporate before our eyes. Usually when that happens, things for the most part seem to go unchanged. The things that are different somehow go unnoticed.

Within the year the 812th Military Police Co. was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq last year, the difference they made was indeed noticed and will be remembered. That's what part of making and preserving history is all about — bringing about change and making a difference.

"We never planned for it to happen the way it did," said CPT Vance Kuhner, 812th commander. "It was the epitome of being in the right place at the right time."

Kuhner's humility is only one of the many valuable traits that are widely common throughout his unit. If being in the right place at the right time was truly the case, then he and his Soldiers were in the right place, time and time again.

In fact, within the 812th's nine-month combat tour of duty, it conducted 1,261 combat patrols, 123 cordon and searches, 101 convoy security missions, 66 detainee escort missions and 58 raids that resulted in the recovery of ancient artifacts such as the Lady of Warka mask, the Besseki Statue and the Assyrian Chariot. "The mask is considered to be the most important artifact stolen from a museum during the final days of Saddam Hussein's regime," said Kuhner, a New York City prosecutor. "The mask was among the thousands of artifacts stolen. Many have been found, but many more are still missing," he added.

"An Iraqi citizen had it buried in his backyard for weeks," he said. "But it was the tip from a teenager that led to its recovery. We found it wrapped in a white cloth buried about half a foot in the dirt. He initially didn't admit to it because he didn't want to give it up, but he finally confessed."

SGT Emmanuel Gonzalez, a New York City police officer and single parent from Brooklyn, was a part of the recovery team. "I felt good about helping to find the mask, which is nicknamed the Sumerian Mona Lisa," he said. "There had been so much negative press about [the United States] in the Arabic papers. It was great to have something positive."

In another predawn raid with Iraqi detectives, the Soldiers confiscated about $3 million in counterfeit dinar, the Iraqi currency. Five suspects were taken into custody. However, due to the lack of space, processing and detaining suspects became an increasing challenge for the Iraqi police. Gonzalez, along with the unit, was also instrumental in helping to build a police force and station in the heart of Baghdad.

"Working with the Iraqi police was incredible. As colleagues, we developed a rapport with them that was immeasurable. They were putting their lives on the line along side of us to help make their country a better place," Gonzalez said. "Many of us in the unit are New York City police and corrections officers and cops from other states. The Iraqi officers were able to closely identify with us to form a more cohesive, working relationship."

The 812th was also called upon to assist the infantry. Specifically during one of the hottest days of the season, Kuhner and his men lent support to infantry Soldiers who were clearing a building. Fighting in temperatures already well over 100 degrees, the building caught fire, but the 812th continued the mission after urging the infantry to fall back when they were overcome by the blazing heat. The heat was overwhelming, yet the 812th remained to ensure no women and children were left behind. Many suffered from heat exhaustion or symptoms of heat exhaustion, but pressed on. SSG Ralf Embro, a combat medic, was there to treat them, even while taking enemy fire. "It was like fighting in Hades," Kuhner said. "The squad that went in to clear that building are real heroes."

Taking enemy fire seemed to become the norm for them. In all, the 812th was ambushed 11 times but successfully suppressed and defeated the enemy. Their soldierly skills proved to be useful, but their experience as New York City police officers were instrumental toward their victories.

When the unit returned from Iraq to a warm and long-awaited welcome home celebration, it took its experiences to heart, but mostly as just part of the job. Not only has that "job" recently earned them the distinction of being the best company-sized unit in the U.S. Army Reserve by LTG James Helmly, U.S. Army Reserve commanding general, but also the solo position of becoming the most decorated 77th Regional Readiness Command unit since WW II — earning 16 Bronze Stars, eight Purple Hearts and 120 Army Commendation Medals — seven with the V device for valor.

"In spite of everything that we did, we gave the Iraqi police all the credit," said Gonzalez. "These are guys who are fighting to build their country and don't make much of a living as cops. They deserve all the credit."

What a difference a year can make and the 812th has made a difference — a difference that has not gone unnoticed.

RESERVE SOLDIER BRINGS SOMETHING SPECIAL TO IRAQ

By SGT Annette B. Andrews
28th Public Affairs Detachment

AL ASAD, Iraq — We have a saying in the Army, "everyone brings something special to the table." It's those unique talents, not part of their military occupational specialty, that sets Soldiers apart when a unit is the first of its kind in camp.

MSG David B. Hall, Host Nation NCOIC, 561st Corps Support Group (CSG) from Omaha, Neb., can be found covered with sawdust on most days. From building desks, repairing or remaking doors or operating heavy equipment, Hall said no task was too great.

"We each come to this unit with two skills," he said. "There's my civilian skill and my military skill. I'm glad I've been able to use my civilian occupation here."

His background is in construction. Hall is capable of handling small electrical concerns, building almost anything — including a tactical operations center — and teaching others to operate equipment.

He's a superintendent of a paving crew in Omaha, Neb. He is also a licensed Hoisting and Portable Engineer, which means he is allowed to operate heavy equipment like Komatsu backhoes and 10-ton dump trucks, which allows him to be the licensing authority for the group. He said every little bit helps and that was why he deployed with his personal tools.

Putting up walls, leveling floors, running wires and installing circuit breakers is nothing new to Hall. He barely finished building his house before his unit deployed to Iraq. Hall carries photos of his dream home and with deserved pride he will show it off if asked.

"I built my own home," he said and then chuckled. "This is starting to feel like home, because I'm doing a lot of building here."

Though it's been tough to get wood in the desert, he's been able to build practical furniture like shelving units and a custom-made desk for the group commander — proof of his resourceful nature.

Yet, all his experience has culminated in one specific rule. "I think safety, it's a very big issue with me," Hall said.

That is almost a contradiction knowing something about his background.

He entered the Army Reserve in 1980 as a mechanic, became a drill sergeant and switched to being a cavalry scout in 1989. Hall got to the 561st CSG as heavy-wheeled mechanic. "I've been in the Army for 25 years and (it feels like) I'm doing everything backwards," he said.

He expected to start his career with frequent deployments and graduate to a desk job. But he said he was ending his career with this 545-day activation, although he had already submitted his retirement papers weeks prior to activation.

"I could have gotten out of this, but I wanted to do my part," he said.

"I wasn't picked up for Desert Storm," he said. "I've never been deployed before, and when it comes time to tell my son and daughter about my experiences, I can be proud to say I didn't duck out and run."

The group's mobilization mission is to provide the full spectrum of combat service support to an Army corps, while maintaining its assigned units in ready status.

The 561st CSG arrived in October 2004 and is in the process of building Al Asad into a general supply hub providing supplies to the surrounding areas of operations. ARM

PHOTO: SGT ANNETTE ANDREWS

MSG David Hall uses his carpentry skills and his personal equipment from his civilian construction occupation to build desks and shelves for his unit at Al Asad, Iraq.

First Army Reserve Soldier in Operation Iraqi Freedom to Earn Silver Star for Heroism in Fire Fight

THE FIRE FIGHT

BAGHDAD — On April 9, 2004, then PFC Jeremy Church was a driver for the 724th Transportation Company and was with convoy commander 1LT Matthew Brown on an emergency fuel mission to Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) when his fuel convoy came under attack by elements of Muqtada al Sadr's militia.

While driving along a four-mile stretch of a six-lane highway near BIAP, approximately 200 insurgents with rocket-propelled grenades, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), machine guns and assault rifles attacked in an area that was surrounded by two and three level houses with narrow side streets.

As soon as Church's vehicle entered the area of the ambush, it took small arms fire while explosives blasted the convoy from both sides of the road. Church drove aggressively to avoid the blasts and other obstacles such as guardrails, concrete barriers, and vehicles that were placed across the road to slow the movement of the convoy.

Within the first five minutes of the ambush, an enemy sniper wounded Brown with two shots to the head, while he was seated next to Church. Church grabbed his first aid pouch, ripped it open and instructed the wounded Brown to place a bandage over his left eye as Church continued to drive the Humvee.

While navigating the vehicle through obstacles, Church fired his rifle at insurgents with one hand while encouraging his platoon leader to stay conscious. Church continued to drive the Humvee on three tires for four miles while firing at enemy targets and changing magazines with one hand. He found an exit ramp and led the convoy to a security perimeter.

When out of range of the insurgents, Church carried Brown to safety where he could be treated and taken to a field hospital. He then rallied the troops to mount an immediate recovery mission, going back into the fire-fight to assist other Soldiers still pinned down under fire. Church identified the assistant commander's vehicle amidst heavy black smoke and flaming wreckage of burning fuel tankers to find two more wounded Soldiers and four civilian truck drivers. He instinctively executed a hasty triage - identifying the most seriously wounded, administering first aid to a Soldier suffering from a chest wound, and then carrying the Soldier to a recovery vehicle — while exposing himself to continuous enemy fire from both sides of the road.

Once all the wounded were loaded, there was no room left for Church in the vehicle. He instructed the Soldiers to take the wounded back to safety while he waited in the thick of the gun battle, under constant enemy fire.

PHOTO: LIBRARY CONGRESS WEBSITE

LTG James R. Helmly, congratulates SPC Jeremy Church on his being awarded the Silver Star for his heroic actions in saving several Army Reserve Soldiers from his unit, including 1LT Matthew Brown, right, during the firefight near the Baghdad International Airport. Brown was severely wounded.

Church climbed into the disabled Humvee for cover, engaged enemy targets and killed several insurgents. The recovery team returned approximately 10 minutes later to pull him out of the battle.

Returning to safety, Church immediately rendered medical treatment to two civilians with minor wounds and loaded them into vehicles for ground evacuation. Before leaving the area, Church initiated a sweep of sensitive items and weapons to prevent capture by enemy forces.

Church's bravery in the face of danger and leadership under fire saved the lives of at least five Soldiers and four civilians.

The award was presented to Church on Feb. 27, 2005 by the Chief, Army Reserve, LTG James R. Helmly during the homecoming ceremony for Soldiers of the 724th Transportation Company.

THE HERO

By Paul Adams
Army Reserve Public Affairs

Jeremy Church has gone from working for a company apprehending shoplifters to becoming the first Army Reserve Soldier to earn the Nation's third highest medal, the Silver Star, for heroic actions during the Global War on Terrorism.

Once responsible for insuring safety standards were adhered to as a loss prevention associate for Wal-Mart in Bloomington, Ill., prior to being mobilized, Church took on a much larger and more dangerous role as a basic fuel hauler and escort running gun trucks as an Army Reserve Specialist with the 724th Transportation Company. His job was to haul fuel or escort and protect the civilians who were hauling fuel in Iraq.

His actions would not only change him, but one day may change the world by saving the lives of Soldiers and civilians.

The 27 year-old Illinois native's story has been widely told since his return, as he, accompanied by his platoon leader, 1LT Matthew Brown, and Army Reserve officials, completed a four-day New York City media tour of television, radio and newspaper interviews while appearing on talk shows and news programs. Church, in a heroic and gallant action, saved the life of Brown on April 9, 2004, during one of the worst convoy attacks to occur in Iraq to date.

Following Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training as a military policeman, Church completed the Combat Life Saver course that he would later employ in his career to save lives in combat. "The Combat Life Saver course benefited me that day following the attack," Church said in his matter-of-fact manner, "as well as the training I received from the 724th on how to drive the tanker systems." Church deployed as a fuel hauler but later switched over to gun trucks to protect the civilians who were hauling fuel.

On that fateful day, April 9, 2004, Church was driving the convoy commander in a Humvee. He was designated as 1LT Matthew Brown's driver back at Fort McCoy, before the unit deployed, when not running missions.

"Church is not a person who is concerned with his own well-being," Brown said. "He puts others first and foremost, making sure other people are taken care of. I felt that I could count on him. I knew that he had a strong desire to do his job correctly. When you are my driver, you are my driver and there is no down time. He had a sense of dedication and willingness to do the job."

Church credits his success and survival following the insurgent attack on his convoy to his fellow Soldiers and leaders in the 724th. "I am very proud to serve under the leadership I did and with the Soldiers of the 724th. And I appreciate all the support back in the States," said Church.

Brown believes that Church doing what he did was due to his sense of loyalty and duty and fearless behavior. "When it came to that situation, Church reacted not because of his prior training (Combat Life Saver) but because of who he is as a person. Those skills gave him the ability to take care of Soldiers and MP training gave him some knowledge on returning fire," Brown said.

According to Brown, the unit's battle drills and training as Army Reserve Soldiers was paramount to reacting to the situation properly. But he added, "The real story here is Church going back into the kill zone, when he didn't have to, when he put his life in jeopardy for everyone else and because he has such a loyalty and sense of duty to his fellow Soldiers and Company and to the Army Reserve."

"Church was always ready and mission focused," said SFC Robert Groff, platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon, 724th. "He was very dedicated to his duty and the task at hand."

Groff believes that Church had some of the Warrior Ethos, 'Never leave a fallen comrade" instilled in him. "I believe [Church] felt that he as one could help somebody out."

Church and his battle buddies would always stick together. One of these was SPC Justin Curry. "His drive and willingness to get everybody back and not wanting to get anybody else killed is what I think made him go back into the kill zone," Curry said.

Brown said that he didn't know Church very well on a personal basis back at Fort McCoy. "We got to know each other when we were driving the roads of Iraq. That is when I began to get the sense of his dedication. I expect Church will excel at anything he wants if he has the certain motivation to pursue a certain career. If he continues to be as focused as he is now, he will do well," Brown said.

Church remains focused on finishing his education and pursuing a career as a police officer or postal employee and staying with the 724th. He has recently re-enlisted for another six years following his return from Iraq.

"I enjoy the military," Church said. "It gives me a great sense of purpose. It gives me a foundation to form bonds with people and find very good friends and help change things in the world. I believe all Soldiers [in Iraq] are playing a part in changing the world," Church said.

He includes himself in this.

THE SILVER STAR

The Silver Star is awarded to a person serving in the U.S. Army who is cited for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States — while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force or while serving with foreign forces in armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The required gallantry must not only be uncommon, but marked with distinction.

The Citation Star was established by the 65th Congress on July 9, 1918. It was retroactive to include those cited for gallantry in action in previous campaigns back to the Spanish-American War. On July 19, 1932, the Secretary of War approved the Silver Star medal to replace the Citation Star. This design placed the Citation Star on a bronze pendant suspended from the ribbon design. Authorization for the Silver Star was placed into law by an Act of Congress for the Army on Dec. 15, 1942. So far, 147 Soldiers have been awarded the Silver Star for service in Operation Iraq Freedom and 25 Soldiers have been awarded the Silver Star for service in Operation Enduring Freedom.

PHOTO: LIBRARY CONGRESS WEBSITE

Reserve Headquarters Honors Fallen Soldier in Memorial Ceremony

By Paul Adams
Army Reserve Public Affairs

ATLANTA — In its continuing effort to recognize and pay tribute to Army Reserve Soldiers who have given their lives for the cause of freedom during the Global War on Terrorism, the Army Reserve G-1, in concert with other participating staff elements, conducted a Fallen Soldier Memorial at the U.S. Army Reserve Command Headquarters April 14, 2005. The ceremony, honoring SSG Christopher W. Dill, 98th Division (Institutional Training), was held in the front foyer of the building.

According to Reserve officials the Fallen Soldier Memorial Ceremonies will continue to be held on Thursdays, on a monthly basis as required. All assigned headquarters personnel and official visitors to the facility are welcome to attend the ceremonies.

Dill, 32, died April 4, 2005 from injuries caused by a gunshot wound from insurgents in an ambush while on patrol with Iraqi troops he had helped train. He mobilized with the 98th Division as a part of its Foreign Army training Assistance Command mission.

The 98th Division is supporting the Multi National Security Command-Iraq, which is training Iraqi Security Forces. Dill was a member of the Military Transition Team (MTT). The MTTs are the primary vehicles by which Coalition Forces coach, mentor and assist in the training of the new Iraqi Security Forces and are spread out over various locations in that country. Dill was with an MTT advising the Iraqi Army at the time of his death.

Dill was a 14-year veteran of the U.S. Army in both the Active and Reserve components, a Gulf War veteran and earned a Bronze Star for valor in the Battle of Fallujah.

In civilian life Dill served as a firefighter with the City of Buffalo, N.Y. He is survived by his wife Dawn, his parents William and Marsha Dill and his two sisters.

PHOTO: PAUL ADAMS

SFC Jodi Johnson comforts MAJ Delois Watson-Brown as Herman Whitley pauses to reflect following the Fallen Soldier Memorial ceremony held in honor of SSG Christopher Dill.

PHOTO: PAUL ADAMS

SSG Christopher Dill is honored during a Fallen Soldier Memorial Ceremony at the U.S. Army Reserve Command Headquarters.

Widow at Peace as Fallen Hero Returns

By Gene Warner
Staff Reporter
Buffalo News

TONAWANDA, N.Y. — The devastating news that her husband, Staff Sgt. Christopher W. Dill, had been killed in Iraq, the toughest part was waiting for him to come home. "I wanted to see him," she said Thursday. "I wanted to touch him. I wanted to hold him. I wanted to kiss him." Then late Tuesday, her husband's body returned home. "After I got to see him on Tuesday night and hold him and talk to him, I was at ease and at peace," she said. "I felt, from my head to my toes, all my fears and my pain went out of me. He brought me a sense of peace. He was finally home. No longer could he feel pain. He's OK now."

I am at peace with him now. I'm happy that he's home, and I'm very proud of him. I'm overwhelmed with pride.

Dawn Dill talked about her husband in their Town of Tonawanda home Thursday, one day before the community, including his fellow firefighters and Soldiers, says goodbye to him, starting with a 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial today in St. Edmund's Catholic Church on Ellicott Creek Road.

"I am at peace with him now," Dawn Dill said in an hourlong interview punctuated by lots of laughs and a few tears. "I'm happy that he's home, and I'm very proud of him. I'm overwhelmed with pride."

The sadness over the last 11 days, since Dill was killed in an ambush while patrolling with Iraqi troops, has been mixed with that pride.

Especially on Tuesday, when the firefighter-soldier received a hero's welcome during a slow procession that passed by his firehouse, Engine 21 on Jefferson Avenue.

The former Dawn Derion says she never will forget the sight on the Kensington Expressway, when people lined up to salute him. People were blowing kisses as his flag-draped coffin passed. Some people got out of their cars and saluted. Young children stood silently, their hands over their hearts.

His wife laughed at Chris Dill's probable reaction to all the fuss.

"He'd be like, "Are you kidding me? C'mon, guys, let's get this over with.' But he'd also be really proud."

Dawn Dill talked about the human touches of the man the community now knows as a Buffalo firefighter and Army Reserve staff sergeant.

Like the last time they were together, in an Indiana restaurant last October, when he ordered a little birthday cake for her, since he wouldn't be with her on her Dec. 30 birthday. Like the dozen roses he had waiting for her at home on her birthday, following a quick call to a local florist.

He was a firefighter and he was a Soldier, but he was my day-to-day, goofy, caring husband, and he was everybody's best friend.

Like the way he played hide-and-seek with his nephew Ethan, and the way he always made sure to visit with his sisters' families in Columbus, Ohio. Like his love for his "Doogies," the couple's dogs Coal and Jagger.

"He was a firefighter and he was a Soldier, but he was my day-to-day, goofy, caring husband, and he was everybody's best friend," she said. "He was Chris. He did what he wanted and said what he wanted, and he didn't care who it bothered."

Sure, she worried about him, especially after he was hurt when his fire truck was struck one day. Another time, a piece of burning roof material struck him and left a burn on his neck.

"He loved being a firefighter. He said, "You're my wife, but these guys are my family. We all rely on each other.' The bond they all had together, he loved it. They were his brothers."

And there was no sense trying to talk the Persian Gulf War veteran out of going back to Iraq, when he could have been sent stateside, to Missouri, to train officers.

He was a true Soldier. He believed in why he was there, and he wanted to be there. He told me he wanted to go back and finish what he started so that our future children and everyone else's children wouldn't have to go there.

"He was a true Soldier. He believed in why he was there, and he wanted to be there," she said. "He told me he wanted to go back and finish what he started so that our future children and everyone else's children wouldn't have to go there."

Chris and Dawn Dill had the Town of Tonawanda home and the picket fence. All they needed to complete the picture was children. They had talked about adopting a child, and in a recent letter, Chris said that it was time to adopt, kidding that he'd be happy as long as they could adopt "a somewhat Irish boy."

His wife always knew what a great father he'd be.

As she waited for the community to say goodbye to her husband, Dawn was consoled by the memory of what he told her on their wedding day, as they rode around in a limousine after the ceremony.

"I'm so happy that if I were to die tomorrow, I'd be the happiest man," he told her. "All my dreams have come true, and I have you by my side." ARM

(*Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission from Managing Editor*, Buffalo News.)

NEW COURSE

Teaches Soldiers to Detect and Avoid IED

By Chuck Prichard
Army Reserve Public Affairs

SGT Derek Johnson does not want his fellow Soldiers of the 960th Quartermaster Company to know as much as he does about improvised explosive devices (IED).

Johnson will show his troops how to distinguish roadside bombs from innocuous trash, how to tell whether a driver is just in a hurry or trying to deliver a car bomb and what to do when something doesn't look right. He will train them in hopes that they will never know the pain of being hit by an exploding IED like he was during a deployment to Afghanistan.

"I am planning on going over there, completing the mission and bringing everybody home," said Johnson, who lost part of a knuckle in his right hand during the explosion.

Rather than just sharing his war stories, Johnson, an assistant training NCO, will train the members of his Cedar Rapids, Iowa-based Army Reserve unit using techniques he recently learned while attending a cutting edge training program.

Johnson was one of 64 USAR members who reported to Fort McCoy, Wis., in March 2005 to attend the new Counter Improvised Explosive Device (CIED) course. The program was presented as a "train the trainer" course in which students are expected to take what they learn back to their respective units and train their comrades.

"We have all been in training where the instructor has said something like 'What you learn here may some day save your life.' That statement is definitely true for this course," said Chuck Lukasek, chief of the 84th U.S. Army Reserve Readiness Training Command's (ARRTC) Logistics Training Development Division.

Lukasek and his team of assistants and instructors put the week-long course together at the request of senior Army leaders who recognized the need to train deploying Soldiers on the dangers of IEDs. While most Army training programs take about two years to develop and implement, Lukasek's crew was able to take the CIED course from conception to the classroom in about four months.

"We did not have the luxury of time. Soldiers need this training now," Lukasek said, emphasizing the last word.

U.S. forces serving in Iraq are finding between 35 and 60 IEDs every day, said MAJ Greg Scheidhauer, IED training officer for U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC). "Unfortunately, many of those detections are through detonation. But when Soldiers use the techniques we are teaching here, they are able to catch many more of the IEDs before they go off. Fewer detonations mean fewer casualties," Scheidhauer said.

IEDs are not a recent phenomenon in the two-year-old Iraqi operation. The homemade bombs account for about half of the casualties being suffered by coalition troops.

Two Humvees carrying an IED search team from the counter IED class approach some debris on the side of the road. As a practical exercise for the course, students were required to apply their IED hunting skills during a drive around Fort McCoy. Using their new skills the students were able to identify a large block of simulated explosives planted in the tire and avoid disaster.

PHOTO: CHUCK PRICHARD

Senior leaders recognized the IED threat in the early stages of the operation and put together an organization to deal with it. The Joint IED Defeat Task Force was charged with gathering information about how insurgents use the devices and helping commanders develop ways to counteract those efforts. Using military contractors and other resources, the task force was able to quickly implement some training for deploying troops, said LTC Alan Hartfield, training officer for the task force. "But we were only able to reach about 30 to 40 percent of the deploying forces. So to get to the rest of the deploying forces we had to develop a train-the-trainer course," Hartfield said.

An e-mail seeking help in developing such a course eventually found its way to Lukasek in November 2004. He discussed it with other ARRTC experts and they agreed to take on the challenge as long as it did not interfere with the other courses already being taught at the center.

Since his team was fully tasked with other duties, Lukasek recruited a couple of helpers from other sections of ARRTC and went to work on the CIED course.

One of the first things he did was attend an IED class being taught to deploying troops by a contractor. "The course was good but it dealt exclusively with what actions (the troops) should take after an IED goes off. Right away, I saw that we needed to make the emphasis on finding them before they detonated," he said.

Using a search technique the British military developed to deal with bombs in Ireland and Iraqi insurgent information gathered by the task force, Lukasek wrote the program of instruction for the CIED course in record time.

"The task force had great information. I just had to apply the training principles we use so that the information could be properly conveyed to a student," Lukasek said.

After finishing the draft, Lukasek worked with ARRTC instructors to fine-tune the delivery of the classes. The long hours of rehearsal and rewrites paid off in good reviews from the students who attended the course, which was the first of three pilot sessions for the program. Student feedback from the first three sessions will be used to further fine-tune the course before it goes into wide distribution in a few months.

The students in the first class fell into two distinct categories: those who have been deployed and those who are about to be deployed.

"I wish I would have gotten this training before I went to Afghanistan," said Johnson. "They gave us plenty of resources that we can check and update our training so we can go through and teach our troops the current information."

"This course is right on target," said MSG Keith Crabtree, an Army Reserve Soldier with the 451st Civil Affairs Battalion in Pasadena, Texas. A few months ago he returned from a deployment to Iraq that lasted more than a year. An IED hit his three-vehicle convoy as it traveled through the mean streets of Baghdad's Sadr City neighborhood. "We were lucky. Nobody got hurt," he said.

As he prepares to return to Iraq on another deployment with his unit, Crabtree will make sure his troops don't have to rely on luck to survive the IED threat.

"You don't want your troops' first contact with an IED to be in combat. This course gives them realistic, necessary training so they will know what to do," said Crabtree, who will serve as a first sergeant during the upcoming deployment.

Instructors hope the course will show trainers how to integrate counter IED measures into existing training so that Soldiers are familiar with the concepts when they get deployed, Lukasek said. As the course spreads Soldiers will see IED training incorporated into Military Occupational Skill training, Non-Commission Officer Education System classes and just about every other aspect of common skills training.

PHOTO: CHUCK PRICHARD

SGT Derek Johnson checks out a dummy artillery round that was taped to the backside of a bridge railing as a training aid for the CIED course. The round was one of several fake IEDs students were tasked to find as part of a practical exercise for the training.

"We want the Soldiers to show up at the mobilization station with some knowledge of IEDs," Lukasek said. "Before we developed this course, they would not hear anything about IEDs until they got to the mobilization station. That's too late in the game."

The CIED course is a good example of the kind of programs that are needed to support the Army Reserve's new training concept of "Train, Alert, Deploy," said COL Phil Tullar, ARRTC chief of staff. "Our Army is going from an old post-Cold War model where we had many, many months to build up and mass over time to a new paradigm where we may have to send Army Reserve Soldiers in harm's way on a moment's notice. Courses like this give them not only the training they need but the mindset to get past the old attitude of 'I am a combat support or combat service support Soldier and I am safe here behind the front lines,'" Tullar said. ARM

5115th Garrison Support Unit Soldiers March in Inaugural Parade

By Jack Gordon
Public Affairs Office
99th Regional Readiness Command

Washington, DC — Soldiers from the 5115th Garrison Support Unit (GSU), Fort George G. Meade, Md., continued a tradition of representing the Army Reserve in high-visibility events in the nation's capitol and marched for the second time — in the inauguration parade for President George W. Bush. The unit also proudly conducted the Army Reserve duty for the funeral of President Ronald Reagan.

Soldiers have been an integral part of United States presidential inauguration ceremonies since 1789, when the Continental Army first escorted George Washington to Federal Hall in New York City where the oath was administered. Washington had, of course, served as the Commander of the Continental Army before becoming America's first president. The capitol was later moved to its current location and named after him.

I was in the first rank in the pass in review and when I saw the president — it literally sent shivers up my spine, especially when I saw him return the salute to the commander.

Under clear blue skies in a chilly wind whipping up a thin blanket of snow, and within unprecedented security, the Soldiers' days began just like in the television commercials, and they had indeed done more by the time an average citizen rose from bed that morning than what activities might comprise a day's work. But after it was over, the grueling hours and long march was more than satisfying.

"I was in the first rank in the pass in review and when I saw the president — it literally sent shivers up my spine," said SSG Jim Powers, 324th Military Intelligence Battalion, from Chambersburg, Pa. "Especially when I saw him return the salute to the commander. It was an absolute thrill."

Soldiers from other 99th Regional Readiness Command units located geographically proximate to Washington DC were assigned to the 5115th for the parade.

The 5115th Garrison Support Unit, 99th Regional Readiness Command, represented the entire Army Reserve in the parade.

(PHOTO: MSG JACK GORDON)

Powers responded to a request for volunteers for the event and became one of four Soldiers selected from 27 volunteers in the unit.

As opposed to actually raising his hand, PFC Omari Baker said he had been "volunteered" for the duty by the 372nd Military Police Company from Cumberland Md., but he was OK with it.

"I feel good — I feel good they picked me to do this," Baker said. With only a little more than a year in the Army Reserve, Baker has now become the bearer of the military service torch in his family.

It's a family thing. Every generation of my family has had someone who served. I've always looked up to my uncles who were in the Army.

"It's a family thing," he said. "Every generation of my family has had someone who served. I've always looked up to my uncles who were in the Army."

SFC Ron Davis served as the NCOIC for the marching unit, and is a "veteran" of the first inaugural parade with his unit — the 5115th GSU.

"This time was better — we actually got to see the president," Davis said. "The first time, just as we turned the corner near the White House the sky opened up. I've never seen rain like that — everything was a blur. We got wet. This was cold, but not wet."

Davis said that marching almost a hundred Soldiers before the President presents various challenges.

"Even with our preparation, we encountered some things we didn't expect," said Davis, "like the band in front of us from Texas was extremely loud and the music was not a military beat, so it was difficult to stay in step. We were trying to use three or four Soldiers calling cadence so we could keep everyone in step, but calling cadence is all about a beat too — it's a rhythm and everybody doesn't call it the same — any pause changes the step, but we did our best. It was a lot of waiting and it was cold but when we marched past the White House it was all worth it."

From the officer's perspective, 1LT LaKeisha Major was proud of the group's effort. She earned a direct commission through her assignment with the 5115th.

"Being prior enlisted, it's hard for me to not take care of Soldiers — it's all in a day's work," Major said, "and they did a great job. As a leader, I realize that this mission is all about the Soldiers, and they were excellent."

I wanted to do this, to be a part of history. After you spend a year in Iraq it's a good feeling to march in front of the people you were fighting for, and it made it worthwhile to see the President saluting you.

SGT Steve Koczela, D Company, 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Meade, Md., traveled from Wisconsin to march, and with good reason.

"I wanted to do this," Koczela said, "to be a part of history. After you spend a year in Iraq it's a good feeling to march in front of the people you were fighting for, and it made it worthwhile to see the President saluting you." The 323rd was one of the first 99th Regional Readiness Command units mobilized and deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Although he admittedly takes a great deal of good-natured joking from his fellow Soldiers about his name, 5115th food service NCO SSG Frankie Bunn said he was proud to be part of the unit and to know that his family at home, especially his eight-year-old daughter Asiyah, would be looking for him on TV. Bunn also marched in the military procession for President Ronald Reagan's funeral. He is employed as an honor guard at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, and once trained with the Army's elite Old Guard.

As the senior NCO in the 5115th, CSM David Goodwin watched his troops prepare for the mission, and liked what he saw.

PHOTO: MSG JACK GIBBON

The face of PVT 2 Sharonda Washington, 5115th GSU, reflects the pride she has in the Army Reserve today.

We are the designated Army Reserve marching unit for these presidential events. The Soldiers represented the Army Reserve well.

"I'm proud of my NCOs here," Goodwin said. "About 90 percent of what happened here is attributable to the enlisted Soldiers who made it happen — it's a long march in extreme weather, but when they returned there were no complaints. Their heads were up and they were proud and that makes me proud."

COL Vincent Taylor is the commander of the 5115th, and noted the unit's place in history.

"We are the designated Army Reserve marching unit for these presidential events," said Taylor. "The Soldiers represented the Army Reserve well. We had Soldiers from four other units with us, so it was truly a broad representation." But perhaps the most poignant yet easily overlooked point in an event such as today was not lost on Taylor.

"What this unit was noted for today is notable, but what I'd like to see recognized is the number of Soldiers who have and are serving in Afghanistan and Iraq – and all those who have served and returned. Today this was a marching unit – but it is a fighting unit too. I want these Soldiers to be recognized for what they have done on the battlefield as much as for what they did and represented for the Army Reserve in today's parade. I salute them." ARM

Soldier/Athletic Trainer Supports All-Army Volleyball Teams

By SFC Daniel Coon
Public Affairs Office
70th Regional Readiness Command

Being at the right place at the right time can open opportunities one never expects. For SPC Ryan Rodriquez, an orthopedic specialist with the 6250th U.S. Army Hospital, being at the right place at the right time gave him an opportunity he will not soon forget. Rodriquez worked during the summer 2004 as the volleyball athletic trainer of the All-Army Men's and Women's Volleyball Teams at Fort Lewis, Wash., the U.S. Armed Forces Men's and Women's Volleyball Teams during the 2004 Armed Forces Tournament, and the 2004 Competition International Sports Military (CISM) World Games.

"Well, it started off on drill weekend and we were to do physical training at the Soldiers Field House at Fort Lewis," Rodriquez said. "The field house was closed because the All-Army Team was having tryouts. I started talking with the coach and he found out I was a certified athletic trainer and went crazy. The coach said, 'We need an athletic trainer. Can you start tomorrow?'" Rodriquez said.

The field house was closed because the All-Army Team was having tryouts. I started talking with the coach and he found out I was certified athletic trainer and went crazy.

"I talked to my commander, COL Peter Kilburn, at the 6250th. He signed off on my request and was very supportive. Because he allowed me to participate with the All-Army Volleyball team, it opened up all these doors and opportunities for me," Rodriquez said.

Rodriquez was responsible for the medical care of both the men and women's volleyball teams. He provided injury prevention care, acute orthopedic injury evaluation, injury rehabilitation and strength and conditioning for the athletes during the competition.

He was able to put his education to good use. Rodriquez is a graduate from Western Washington University, Bellingham, Wash. with a Master of Science in Exercise Science / Human Movement and Performance and a Bachelors of Science in Exercise Science / Athletic Training and a minor in Sports Psychology. He also received an Associate's Degree from Whatcom Community College, Bellingham, Wash.

Rodriquez became interested in athletic training after an ankle injury he received while he was on a basketball scholarship to Whatcom Community College. The ankle injury was originally misdiagnosed, therefore limiting his ability to play basketball. The wrong diagnosis on his ankle injury and his recovery opened up the athletic training field to him.

"The athletic trainer needs to be with the team before practice, during practice, after practice, and we were practicing twice a day and on top of that," said Rodriquez. "We also had a couple of injured players I worked on in-between the practices. I had to do rehabilitation on the Soldiers to speed their recovery."

Working as the athletic trainer for the All-Army Volleyball team and helping players from the other services that did not have any trainers made for long days for Rodriquez. "During All Army Volleyball Sports, I was putting in serious hours, sometimes 12-to-14 hours a day," he said.

Rodriquez's hard work and medical skills continued to create opportunities for him. "During the closing ceremonies of the Armed Forces Tournament, I was chosen to serve on the 2004 United States Armed Forces Team as the head trainer during the 2004 CISM World Games," Rodriquez said.

Some of the teams had players that were on their national teams during the Olympics.

The 2004 CISM World Games were held in June 2004 in Kingston, Canada, at the Royal Military College of Canada. The U.S. team consisted of athletes from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

The U.S. players faced competition from Olympic-caliber players at the games. "Some of the teams had players that were on their national teams during the Olympics," Rodriquez said.

SPC Ryan Rodriquez serves as an athletic trainer for the All-Army Men's and Women's Volleyball teams at Fort Lewis, Wash.

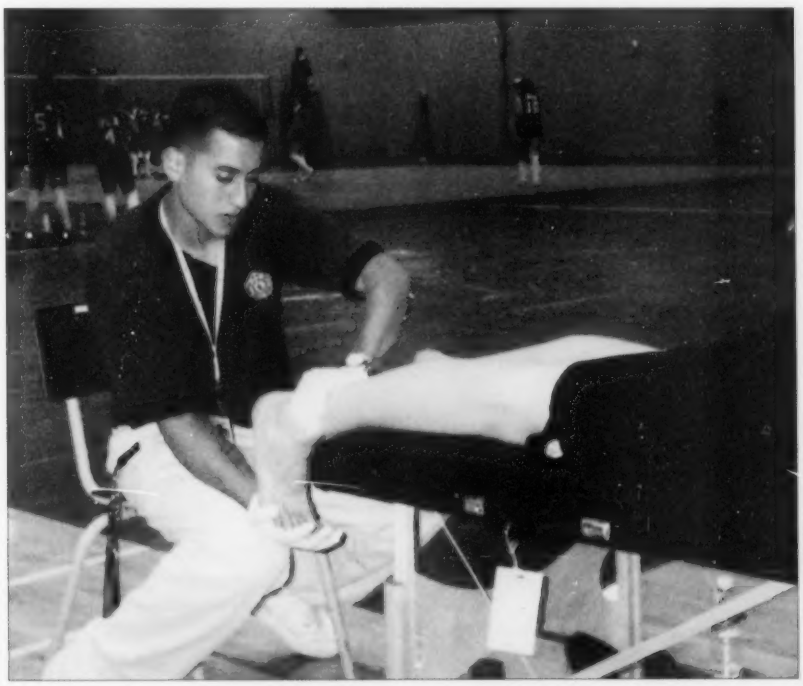


PHOTO: SPC RYAN RODRIGUEZ

The player's thumb was swollen, but the joint appeared to be stable. As we struggled through the language barrier, I advised the coach the player should stop play and obtain an X-ray to rule out any fracture.

There were teams participating in the 2004 CISM World Games from Bulgaria, Germany, China, South Korea, Cyprus, Latvia, Netherlands, Cameroon, Morocco and the host country, Canada.

His work with the team gave him the opportunity to experience other cultures and learn different perspectives of sports medicine. "Not every country had a trainer, but countries that did have one, Germany and Canada, they did things differently than the way I learned," Rodriquez said.

"An example of this is massage," he added. "In the States, rehabilitation to people in sports medicine, the first 72 hours of injury is critical. You want to control swelling and then progress from there. In Germany, massage is huge to their rehabilitation. They were massaging freshly sprained ankles, which brings on more swelling. It is just a different outlook to sports medicine."

During the All-Army Tournament, Rodriquez also worked on members of the Marines and Air Force teams. At the CISM games, he concentrated on the U.S. Team, but also he was available for other countries' teams if they did not have a trainer.

While at the CISM games, Rodriquez was able to demonstrate his professional skills but also his sportsmanship.

During a men's game between the U.S. and Latvia, a Latvian player suffered an injury known as "Goalkeeper's Thumb", which is a sprain to the ligament in the thumb. Not having an athletic trainer on their team, the Latvian coach went to Rodriquez for assistance.

"The player's thumb was swollen, but the joint appeared to be stable. As we struggled through the language barrier, I advised the coach the player should stop play and obtain an X-ray to rule out any fracture," Rodriquez said.

The Latvian coach explained that the player was of great importance to the team, and asked if I would assist the player. Of course, in good sport I applied a temporary tape job, giving support to the player's thumb and allowing him to continue playing.

"The Latvian coach explained that the player was of great importance to the team, and asked if I would assist the player," he said. "Of course, in good sport I applied a temporary tape job, giving support to the player's thumb and allowing him to continue playing."

Unfortunately, for the U.S. team, Latvia went on to win the match. "The next day the Latvian team presented me with a shirt from their military academy and a coin as a token of appreciation for my assistance to the team," Rodriquez said.

Because of his involvement with All-Army Volleyball teams, Rodriquez will serve as the athletic trainer for the All-Army Men's and Women's Cross Country team during the Men's and Women's Cross Country Armed Forces Championship that were scheduled for February 2005 in Vancouver, Wash.

Rodriquez is thankful to his command at the 6250th and the All-Army Team for allowing him to represent his country, his unit and the Army Reserve during the games. "My experience serving as an athletic trainer in the 2004 CISM World Games will forever be remembered," he said.

Rodriquez found that being at the right place at right time did create opportunities for his professional and military careers. ARM

Fort McCoy Equips, Trains Soldiers To Serve Wherever They are Needed

By Public Affairs Office
Fort McCoy, Wisc.

Fort McCoy, an Army installation located in west-central Wisconsin, has been supporting the Army's missions for nearly 100 years and is poised to succeed for 100 more.

The installation was born of a vision of MG Robert Bruce McCoy, a prominent local citizen and veteran whose career included 31 years of distinguished military service. McCoy knew that as warfare became increasingly more modern, large and more-powerful guns would be developed, and training would be emphasized. He purchased 4,000 acres and invited military units to train on the McCoy Ranch. In 1909 the War Department acquired his land and an adjacent 11,000 acres in west-central Wisconsin to establish an artillery camp.

Since that time, the installation has grown and has served the nation by underpinning the readiness of its armed forces, both active and reserve components, by providing quality ranges, training areas and facilities.

Fort McCoy is the only Army installation in Wisconsin and is the only Army facility in the region focused on providing Total Force training.

Installation Commander COL Danny G. Nobles said Fort McCoy is here to ensure Soldiers are fully-equipped, well-trained and prepared to serve wherever the Army needs them.

Fort McCoy functions as a year-round training site for upward of 130,000 military personnel per year from all branches of the armed forces, which amounts to about 1.5 million man days annually.

PHOTO: ROB SCHUETTE

Members of the 318th Maintenance Company install a valve cover gasket for a Humvee engine. The work was done as part of the Operation Platinum Wrench program, a U.S. Army Reserve Command-directed mission, that gives Reserve Soldiers hands-on maintenance training.

The installation's four-season climate, varied terrain of 60,000 acres, and more than 1,150 barracks, administrative, dining and maintenance facilities are available to support its mission. Training attributes include an urban assault complex, 27 ranges, maneuver corridors for Paladin Artillery and Multiple Launch Rocket System, combat air assault strip, 8,000 acre impact area, and 46,000 acres of maneuver area.

To keep the installation relevant, the Army has invested approximately $152 million since the mid '90s on new construction — buildings and ranges, $22 million in communications improvements, and spends an additional $23 million annually in infrastructure maintenance and repair.

The facilities, however, aren't the only thing Fort McCoy has to offer. The installation staff provides an added bonus for Soldiers training at Fort McCoy.

> Facilities are just buildings unless there are people in them. People make the difference and are what makes Fort McCoy great.

During a recent visit, Chief of the Army Reserve LTG James R. Helmly said that as the primary installation in the upper Midwest capable of hosting certain types of required training for Soldiers, Fort McCoy and its tenants continue to be important to the Army Reserve.

Mutually supportive installation tenants include the 84th Army Reserve Readiness Training Command, a Non-Commissioned Officer's Academy, Regional Training Sites Medical and Maintenance, and the 2nd Brigade/85th Division. Fort McCoy is also home to the Army Reserve's Equal Employment Opportunity Office, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center and Pay Center.

> We've never lost a day of training at Fort McCoy in the history of the GWOT war, regardless of how cold it was, regardless of how hot it was.

"Facilities are just buildings unless there are people in them," Nobles said. "People make the difference and are what makes Fort McCoy great."

"All of the Soldiers I talk to, without exception, all of them talk about how warmly they're treated, how the staff wants to make sure they have all they need... they are results-focused," Nobles said.

Helmly also commended Fort McCoy's staff. "Fort McCoy is dedicated and focused on Army Reserve and National Guard units, and in some cases, units from the other services," Helmly said. "The work force here is very experienced in meeting the unique needs and requirements of reserve-component training and mobilization. It also does an excellent job of providing battle training."

As one of the Army's 15 Power Projection Platforms, Fort McCoy has played and continues to play a vital role in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Since Sept. 11, 2001, approximately 36,000 Soldiers from nearly 700 units have mobilized and demobilized through the installation.

"We've never lost a day of training at Fort McCoy in the history of the GWOT war, regardless of how cold it was, regardless of how hot it was. We have both extremes here. It's an ideal place to train," Nobles said.

As the last person to validate troops who mobilize at Fort McCoy, Nobles said he takes that role very seriously and ensures Soldiers are ready for their deployment mission.

"No Soldier has ever left Fort McCoy (for a deployment) who was not fully equipped, completely trained and properly led," Nobles said. "That's been my commitment to the Soldiers here."

Nobles said Fort McCoy's strategic location, infrastructure, capacity, and multiple ranges designed to Army standards allow Soldiers to accomplish their training mission and get the resources they need prior to deployment.

Army Vice Chief of Staff GEN Richard A. Cody, who recently visited Fort McCoy to tour the installation and speak with mobilized reserve-component Soldiers and installation personnel, said the installation's mobilization process was a world-class operation.

> They're dedicated, they're loyal, they are mission-oriented, they understand the importance of their mission.

"They're dedicated, they're loyal, they are mission-oriented, they understand the importance of their mission. And that speaks volumes to the leadership of COL Nobles and what his staff has done here. But it also speaks volumes to the quality of this post," Cody said.

Fort McCoy stands ready for the future as a Total Force Training Center. ARM

Members of the 724th Transportation Company return to Fort McCoy from Iraq. (PHOTO: SSG CHRIS FARLEY)

Fort Bliss: A Perfect Fit For Signal Training

By CPT Greg Majewski
Public Affairs Office
335th Theater Signal Command

Fort Bliss, Texas — It's larger than every military installation in Georgia combined. In fact, it's one of the largest training installations in the United States. It's Fort Bliss, Texas, and after a four-year absence, it's the site for another round of signal training as part of Roving Sands 2005. So what makes this base so great for signal? It's simple… location, location, location!

The large training grounds of Fort Bliss occupy some one-million plus square miles and extend well into nearby New Mexico. This allows signal assets plenty of elbow room to spread out and test their communication links. Bliss' proximity to other regional installations also allows signal planners the opportunity to simulate links as if they were on the battlefield.

The 335th Theater Signal Command, located in East Point, Ga., has participated in Roving Sands for many years. The command continues its theater mission in Iraq and Afghanistan by providing the largest tactical telecommunications grid in the history of warfare.

Planners say the return of Roving Sands gives the command the chance to continue its branch partnership with the Air Defense Artillery (ADA), based on Fort Bliss.

"It's mutually enhanced training," said LTC Janice Haigler, Roving Sands deputy G-6.

This is Haigler's sixth Roving Sands dating back to '97. She says training during this exercise for both signal and air defense artillery serves as a strategic level opportunity.

"Since the 335th is the overall command and control piece for all tactical and theater communications, the use of additional signal assets allows the ADA to plan and do more than they could do alone," said Haigler.

Roving Sands includes representatives from the Army, Marine Corps, and Air Force. Its joint operations allow inter-service agencies the opportunity to review the way they communicate with each other during a time of war.

"Many of the tactics and techniques learned during Operations Enduring & Iraqi Freedoms are being used here," said COL Charles Nichols, Roving Sands G-6 communications director.

"The Joint Training and Experimentation Network allows all services involved in Roving Sands to review their joint network planning and look for any potential breakdowns on the battlefield," Nichols said. ARM

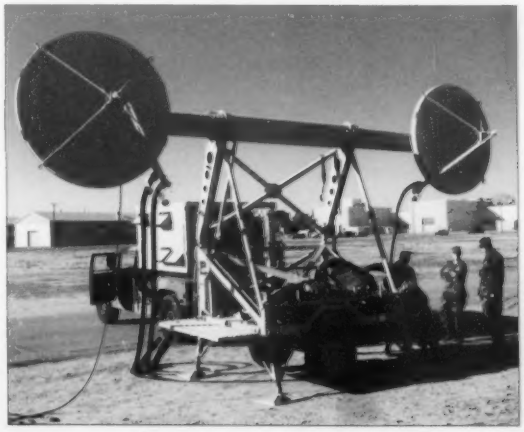


PHOTO: MAJ GREG MAJEWSKI

Soldiers from the 842nd Signal Company prepare a light TROPO communications node for operation at ROVING SANDS 2005.

Puerto Rican Reserve Soldiers Train With LADS before Deploying

By Travis Edwards
Strategic Outreach Officer
Fort Lee, Va.

When 15 Soldiers from the 597th Quartermaster Company were told they may soon be deploying to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, the first thing they did was schedule refresher training on the equipment they take to war; and where better to get logistics specialty training than Fort Lee, Va., the Home of the Quartermaster.

The 597th, a Reserve unit from Puerto Rico, provides field service capabilities to the units it supports.

"Reserve component units have pre-mobilization readiness and post-mobilization training requirements," said CSM Jose Silva, U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School command sergeant major. "A critical objective for pre-mobilization training is to achieve training requirements and standards before their unit deploys into theater."

The Soldiers used every minute they had working with the equipment. They really wanted to learn the proper procedures by heart.

"This type of training focuses on individual and collective tasks. In this particular case, the Reserve Soldiers from Puerto Rico came to Fort Lee as part of their pre-mob requirement. Once more, they honed their skills, and at the same time, had the opportunity to catch up with the latest changes in doctrine and equipment," Silva said.

The unit reported to Fort Lee on Feb. 14, 2004 for the training.

"We have ensured that these Soldiers get as much hands-on time as possible during the course," said laundry and dry-cleaning system instructor SFC Chris Andrews, Aerial Delivery and Field Services Department. "The Soldiers used every minute they had working with the equipment. They really wanted to learn the proper procedures by heart."

Andrews, an activated Reserve Soldier from the 104th Division Institutional Training (IT), Washington State, helped to provide the Puerto Rican Soldiers with some refresher training on the Army's laundry and dry-cleaning system (LADS). The LADS has been upgraded since these Soldiers last came to Fort Lee for their initial training.

"The training goes over some new modifications and hardware that helps to make the system easier to use," Andrews said.

"These Soldiers will no doubt be receiving the upgraded versions of the LADS in theatre," Andrews said. "It reflects heavily on the commitment of the unit to be prepared for their upcoming missions."

"The system is similar to our own equipment, but there are several key changes that we are becoming familiar with during this training," said 2LT Sheila Agosto, platoon leader for the 597th QM Co. "The computer system is upgraded and controls a great portion of the system."

The system is similar to our own equipment, but there are several key changes that we are becoming familiar with during this training.

The refresher training class is 40 hours long. It does not have a certification test or scheduled training plan. The instructors point out the new features while the Soldiers familiarize themselves with the equipment. They then run full cycles on the machine to ensure they have mastered all the procedures. ARM

People

ENGINEER BATTALION HONORS 10 YEAR-OLD FOR HIS SUPPORT

By SGT Chad D. Wilkerson
372nd MPAD

FT. THOMAS, Ky. — Soldiers of the 478th Engineer Battalion (Combat) honored Zach Heringer for outstanding support of the unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) by promoting him to sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Zach is 10 years old.

Having recently been diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, a type of muscular cancer that has spread to his bones, Zach may never reach the age of eligibility for Army service, but after taking part in his school sending hundreds of letters and packages to the engineers during OIF, the Soldiers returned the sentiment in a ceremony Feb. 12, 2005.

"We wanted to recognize him for his support in our time of need so we could support him in his time of need," said MAJ Brian Stevenson, executive officer for the 478th.

Zach Heringer takes a tour of the 478th Engineer Battalion facilities and equipment after he was honored in a ceremony for his support to the unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

PHOTO: SGT CHAD WILKERSON

The Soldiers took Zach, along with several friends and family members, on a tour of the unit's equipment and facilities. Zach rode in the gunner's position on an M-113 Armored Personnel Carrier, acted as tank commander in a Humvee and had Army chow with the battalion.

"The Humvee was my favorite part, but they did not let me drive," said the soft-spoken fifth-grader.

In the upcoming months, Zach will have to endure several chemotherapy, radiation and surgical treatments. They begin this week and will continue through December of 2005.

> We wanted to recognize him for his support in our time of need so we could support him in his time of need.

"This event was very important to him," said Jerry Heringer, Zach's father. "When they suggested this, he was kind of leery because he does not like to be in the public eye. He is kind of shy like any 10 year-old. When I told him what it would be like he got excited about it and has been looking forward to it. It has been an honor."

Along with the tour and ceremony, Zach was given a backpack filled with Army gear, including Army coins, "Army of One" attire, the Army video game, a field cap and a genuine black beret.

In Iraq the 478th not only fought to liberate the Iraqi people, but also worked to make their lives better. They rebuilt schools and helped stand up local facilities during OIF, but their commitment to service did not end after their deployment was over. Stevenson and the rest of his unit hope that their efforts with Zach will show the love and commitment they hold toward all the local citizens who so faithfully supported them.

"I think this event shows that we care about people in our community," Stevenson said. "We are community-based Soldiers, but we are not just Soldiers. That is part of being an Army Reserve Soldier. It is service to the nation and the community."

DENTAL READINESS IMPROVED FOR WAR FIGHTERS

When the 3rd Infantry Division returned home from Iraq with two-and-a-half times the number of cavities they had before deployment, COL Christine Inouye, U.S. Army, Reserve Component force health protection integrator and MAJ Georgia dela Cruz, U.S. Army, public health dental staff officer at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine were convinced that dental readiness was a problem for the warfighters. Determination and research led the two to an innovative solution to combat tooth decay and improve readiness.

By providing overwhelming supporting data, Inouye and dela Cruz proposed a change to the contents of the meals, ready-to-eat (MREs), to the 2004 Joint Services Operational Rations Forum. Research showed that the gum in the

MAJ Georgia dela Cruz

PHOTO: USAR

PHOTO: USAR

COL Christine Inouye

MREs contribute to tooth decay. Inouye and dela Cruz suggested using gum made with an alternative sweetener Xylitol. Xylitol works by blocking the bacteria that causes cavities and also increases saliva flow, which helps neutralize any acids and provides calcium to repair any weakened areas of the teeth. Their recommendation was approved and as a result, MREs will soon contain gum with Xylitol.

> Deployed service members are at greater risk for cavities because of starchy foods, sugary drinks and infrequent tooth brushing.

"Deployed service members are at greater risk for cavities because of starchy foods, sugary drinks and infrequent tooth brushing," said dela Cruz. Xylitol is a safe and effective way to keep service members healthy while deployed. In addition, gum containing Xylitol can be purchased at any local store or commissary.

LTC Teresa I. Hall, RNC, Health Systems Coordinator for U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Wellness (USACHPPM) said, "COL Inouye was vigilant in finding a solution to the dental readiness problem for deployed Soldiers, especially the war fighters."

(Editors Note: Dental Readiness story courtesy of TRICARE.)

BUFFALO SOLDIER SPEAKS TO ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS ABOUT BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By SSG Thomas P. Murt
656th Area Support Group

On Sunday, Feb. 6, 2005 Army Reserve Soldiers of the 656th Area Support Group (ASG) and the 1215th Garrison Support Unit (GSU), two Army Reserve units from Willow Grove, Pa. celebrated Black History Month in a very special way. Trooper Henry T. Washington, a resident of Elkins Park, Pa. and an original Buffalo Soldier of the U.S. Army's 7th Calvary, addressed the Soldiers on the occasion of Black History Month.

Washington was the invited guest of the 656th ASG Equal Opportunity Advisor MAJ Martin J. Jones. As one of the few remaining Buffalo Soldiers still alive, Washington is a very highly sought-after speaker. He possesses a unique and special connection to pre-Equal Opportunity days when Black Americans were expected to accept second-class treatment as Soldiers in the U.S. Army.

Washington related to the Soldiers of the 656th and 1215th what life was like for a black man in the U.S. Army before and during WWII. Racial slurs, prejudice, and institutionalized discrimination were commonplace back then. Despite this appalling treatment, black Americans eagerly enlisted in the U.S. military and served with distinction, honor, and bravery in every war and in every conflict in which the U.S. ever participated. Washington enlisted when the Army was still segregated and like most black Soldiers, was assigned directly to the Quartermaster Corps where he drove a horse-drawn wagon transporting supplies for U.S. Soldiers.

PHOTO: SSG THOMAS MURT

Trooper Henry T. Washington

The audience was very quiet while Washington was speaking and clearly was touched with his talk. It was clear that his account of how African-Americans were treated by the U.S. Army was very sobering for the Soldiers to hear. When asked if he was shocked by his poor treatment in the Army because of his race, Washington responded with dignity that "as a civilian, I was treated equally as bad for being a black man, so the treatment we got in the Army was nothing new to us."

After the presentation, many of the Soldiers waited in line to have their photo taken with Washington.

Washington chided Army leadership that would send Soldiers into Iraq without proper armor, without proper supplies, training, or equipment.

> Washington related to the Soldiers of the 656th Area Support Group and 1215th Garrison Support Unit what life was like for a black man in the U.S. Army before and during WWII.

Despite his feelings, Trooper Washington told the Soldiers to "always do your best and act honorably in the way you treat others and perform your duties."

It was ironic that this older gentleman from another era who left active military service before the end of WWII, who was old enough to be the grandfather or great grandfather of every Soldier in the room, was giving advice and guidance to Soldiers that was still relevant and applicable to Soldiers in 2005. It was clear that despite being treated poorly while he was a Soldier, Trooper Henry T. Washington loved the United States and is an example of loyalty and allegiance to one's country. It was evident that Washington's talk to the Soldiers was well received and appreciated.

RESERVE COLONEL LAUNCHES POWER AND INFLUENCE EXHIBIT AT MASSACHUSETTS MUSEUM

By COL Geoff Jones
Deputy Director
Army Reserve Public Affairs

As both pioneer and staunch advocate for women's issues in the military, Army Reserve COL Jill Morgenthaler was a compelling choice for the Attleboro, Mass.-based Women at Work Museum to launch its "Power and Influence" exhibit on Oct. 23, 2004.

> "The Iraqi people want what we offer. I hope in twenty years my children will proudly tell their children that Grandma brought democracy to the Middle East."

The exhibit, which ran through March 2005, featured women of power and influence in many walks of life. It spotlights the importance of women voting, with displays on the suffrage movement as well as influential women who've overcome incredible obstacles by intelligence, perseverance, and strength. Photographs, narratives and artifacts illustrate their contributions.

At the exhibit's opening, Morgenthaler told of her recent deployment to Iraq as the Multinational Forces' Public Affairs Officer. There, she said, she was "responsible for telling the military side of our efforts to bring freedom and democracy to the people of Iraq" to the likes of Geraldo, Dan Rather, Christiane Amanpour, Tom Brokaw, and Peter Jennings.

PHOTO: COL MORGENTHALER

COL Jill Morgenthaler

"One of the exciting things I started to do in Iraq and that I am continuing to do today," she added, "is work with the Iraqi Army and NATO to help the Iraqi military women. I think women, who are 50 percent of Iraqi society, are the strength of this fledging nation. Among the Iraqi Army's women there are Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds and Christians, ages 22–40, professional women, single mothers, artists, and teachers. I am so impressed with their sincerity and dedication to making Iraq a secure and free republic. I am striving to get these women the training they need to be both military police officers and leaders."

Morgenthaler was one of the first women officers to serve as part of America's integrated military. She received a four-year Army scholarship to Pennsylvania State University in 1973 as the Army experimented in training women with men. Over the course of her career, she has watched women prove themselves in war and peace.

"Today," she says, "military women are bodyguards for generals; they patrol dangerous streets in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Iraq; they provide shelter and aid to the wounded; and they fight and die for America. I have commanded Soldiers from Minnesota to Ohio. I have led Soldiers in Korea, Germany, Bosnia, Egypt and Iraq. The military gave me an opportunity to be a leader years before the rest of American society accepted women in power."

Urging suffrage for Iraqi women, Morgenthaler seconds the saying, "Truth can be outraged by silence quite as cruelly as by speech. The Iraqi people want what we offer," she insists. "I hope in twenty years my children will proudly tell their children that Grandma brought democracy to the Middle East." ARM

Around the Globe

ARMY RESERVE EQUIPMENT STORAGE SITE AWARDED FOR EXCELLENCE

By SFC Derrick Witherspoon
Public Affairs Office
7th Army Reserve Command

HEIDELBERG, Germany — The 7th Army Reserve Command's (ARCOM) Equipment Storage Site-Expanded (ESS-X), located in Mannheim, Germany, was awarded a first place trophy and plaque at the U.S. Army Europe Level Army Awards ceremony for Maintenance and Supply Excellence held in March 2005. The ESS-X, which is a maintenance and storage site for most of the 7th ARCOM's equipment, won its award in the Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) Small Category.

"I'm very proud to receive this award not only for myself, but for all the guys who helped us win this award," said Leonard Clay Wrice, Jr., an employee at the ESS-X.

Wrice, who accepted the award on behalf of the ESS-X, said there was a number of reasons he believes they won the award. Having a 90 percent readiness rating, supporting deployed units, and maintaining over 200 pieces of equipment year round were just some, but he added that the diversity in the ESS-X is what really played a major roll in them winning the prestigious award.

"We have everybody from Americans to Germans from all over the place and we came together and put forth a really good effort and that was the real thing that helped us win this award," said Wrice.

MOVEMENT CONTROL TEAM HELPS SOLDIERS GET BACK HOME

By SFC Derrick Witherspoon
Public Affairs Office
7th Army Reserve Command

NURNBERG, Germany — As the plane traveling from Iraq landed upon the cold, dark tarmac, filled with Soldiers returning from supporting the Global War on Terrorism, the 1172nd Movement Control Team (MCT) knew it was time once again to help get some of their fellow infantry comrades back home.

The 1172nd MCT, an Army Reserve unit located in Bamberg, Germany, spent the month of March in Nurnberg supporting the 27th Transportation Battalion Movement Control (MC), an active duty battalion that provides movement control and transportation support throughout various parts of Europe. The unit's mission was to help the 27th Transportation Battalion MC ensure the efficient and safe redeployment of Soldiers returning from supporting Operation Iraq Freedom. With a total of 11 Soldiers, the 1172nd MCT performed that mission and then some.

CPT Raymond Ireland, commander of the 1172nd MCT, said the unit's mission involved a number of tasks to help smoothly and swiftly inprocess Soldiers arriving from Iraq. He said the Soldiers had to be given a briefing before debarking the airplane; they had to be loaded onto buses and taken to the in-processing area; each Soldier on the airplane manifest had to be accounted for; the Soldiers had to be briefed once inside the in-processing area; and they had to be released to gather their bags, go through customs, and finally load buses that would carry them back to their units. Ireland said the 1172nd MCT helped in-process a total of five flights and approximately 1,200 Soldiers.

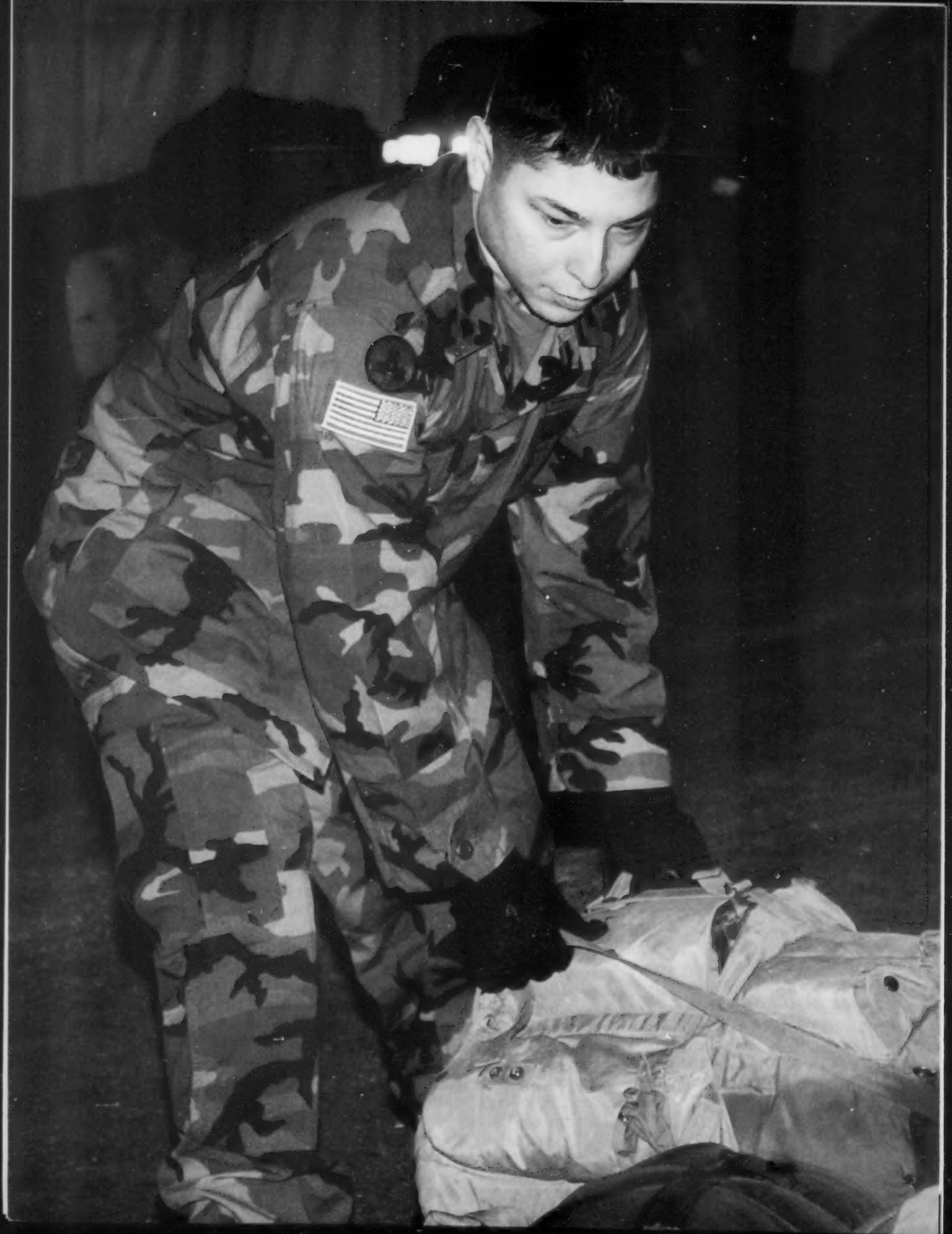
Ireland said their goal was to have the entire process completed within 90 minutes. He said that was everything from briefing the Soldiers on the airplane to getting the last bus out of the gate, but their average was around 94 minutes per flight. He added that there were also some behind-the-scene things his Soldiers helped with.

"We had Soldiers performing some behind-the-scene jobs that played a big roll in the overall mission," said Ireland. "Some of the Soldiers helped download the bags from the airplane and others helped separate the bags and helped the Soldiers carry their bags to the buses, and you're talking about over 200 bags just for this last flight alone."

> "Some of the Soldiers helped download the bags from the airplane and others helped separate the bags and helped the Soldiers carry their bags to the buses, and you're talking about over 200 bags just for this flight alone."

Ireland said he was glad that his Soldiers were able to perform this mission as part of their annual training, because not only were they performing their real world mission, but some of the Soldiers had a personal interest in it.

"Initially I brought 11 Soldiers here with me, but only five were able to perform 14 days, the other six volunteered to stay until the mission was complete, which is around the end of March," said Ireland. "One thing that motivated those six Soldiers to volunteer and stay was, a lot of them used to be combat arms and were in the 1st Infantry Division. Some of them saw



> It makes me feel good to be one of the first people that were able to welcome the Soldiers back home.

their previous company commanders and friends from their old active duty units and saw how important this mission was and decided to stay and support their former colleagues."

One of those six volunteers was SPC Jason Palos, a former active duty infantry Soldier who joined the 7th Army Reserve Command's 1172nd MCT and became a motor transport operator. Palos said the mission became personal to him because he began to see a lot of his active duty infantry friends coming off of the airplanes. He said it was the least he could do for them.

"It makes me feel good to be one of the first people that were able to welcome the Soldiers back home," said Palos. "A lot of them are my friends, so they would get excited when they saw my face or actually saw a familiar face when they got off the plane."

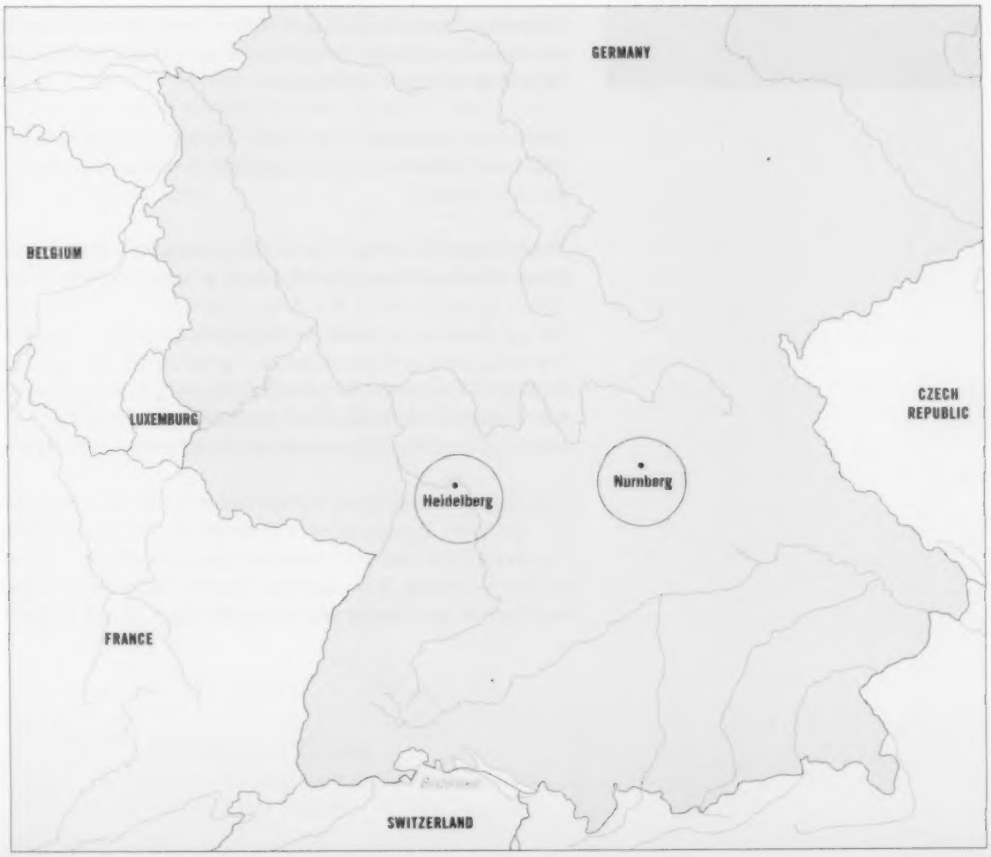
Ireland said he was very impressed with the outstanding job his Soldiers performed.

"I've been in the Reserve component now since 1993 and these guys are all Hooah," said Ireland. "They are primarily former combat arms Soldiers and they are motivated, and they enjoyed doing a real world mission. We were initially scheduled to support another mission, but because of the priority of this one, we were asked to come here and support the 27th Transportation Battalion, and I was more than glad to comply."

"It's been absolutely wonderful working with these Soldiers," said COL Wayne L. Stultz, commander, 27th Transportation Battalion (MC). "The Soldiers from the 1172nd were very professional, and I've watched the Soldiers every step of the way, and the way they integrated with

> The Soldiers from the 1172nd were very professional, and I've watched the Soldiers every step of the way, and the way they integrated with my Soldiers was very seamless.

my Soldiers was very seamless. They worked really hard, with very little guidance, and they obviously know what they're doing. I must say I'm very impressed with the job they did." ARM



SPC Jason Palos, an Army Reserve Soldier with the 1172nd Movement Control Team (MCT) located in Bamberg, Germany, separates the bags of Soldiers returning from Iraq so they will be able to locate them easier. (PHOTO: SFC DERRICK WITHERSPOON)

ARMY RESERVE 97TH BIRTHDAY MESSAGE
April 23, 2005

Message from the Chief, Army Reserve

Nearly a century ago — following the Spanish-American War — our national leadership realized the need to establish a federal force of volunteers with specialized skills, talents and abilities that would complement the warfighting skills of the Army.

That force — the Medical Reserve Corps — was born on April 23, 1908, and grew to become today's United States Army Reserve.

As we celebrate the Army Reserve's 97th birthday, we remain that specialized, complementary, skill-rich force of citizen-warriors and more; we are a force with the courage to change itself.

The Army Reserve is changing and will continue to do so as we face the challenges of the Global War on Terrorism and other threats in the 21st century. In fact, the Army Reserve is changing more now than at any time in the last 50 years. We are achieving our vision: An integral component of the world's best Army, complementing the joint force with skill-rich capabilities.

And we are changing while at war. Change is never easy, but it is even more difficult while our Soldiers are actively engaged in operations around the world, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

Change requires us to let go of things we have grown accustomed to, step out of our comfort zone and view the challenges of this century from a new perspective.

We are changing virtually everything we do in the Army Reserve — how we organize our units, train as Warriors, and equip our Soldiers to fight and win on the asymmetric battlefield. Our Army Reserve Expeditionary Force packages provide predictability to our Soldiers, their families and employers, as well as the combatant commanders. This rotational capability focuses our resources on the units most likely to deploy first.

We are even changing how we talk and think about Army Reserve service. We no longer call ourselves Reservists — we are Army Reserve Soldiers. What we used to call "weekend drills" are now known as "battle assemblies." As our Army — and the threats we face — change, it is important that we change how we think. We are not weekend warriors; we are citizens first, warriors always. Honor is never off duty.

What hasn't changed in our 97 years is the courage, commitment and sacrifice of our people who voluntarily accept the challenge of serving. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 130,000 Army Reserve Soldiers have been called to active duty. Of those, 70 of our brothers and sisters have been killed in action, with hundreds more wounded. One of our own, SGT Matt Maupin of the 724th Transportation Company, remains captured after more than a year.

His parents, Keith and Carolyn Maupin, have demonstrated exemplary courage and grace. Despite the heartbreak of having a son in captivity, they have worked endlessly with the Yellow Ribbon Support Center they founded in Ohio to support Soldiers and their families. Their bravery and loyalty in the face of overwhelming circumstances is inspiring.

We are privileged to live in a time of great heroes. One of those heroes, SPC Jeremy Church, was in the same unit as SGT Maupin, the 724th Transportation Company. When their unit was ambushed on April 9, 2004, SPC Church, driving the lead vehicle, distinguished himself by engaging enemy fighters with his M16A2 rifle and treating his wounded lieutenant, all while still operating his Humvee to avoid detonating improvised explosive devices, mines, small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades. He led the convoy through the kill zone, carried his injured lieutenant to safety, then returned to the kill zone to help fellow Soldiers. His courage under fire has earned him the Silver Star, our Nation's third-highest combat award, and the first one earned by an Army Reserve Soldier in the Global War on Terrorism.

There are many other stories of such courage and sacrifice on the part of Army Reserve Soldiers. Every day, the brave men and women of the Army Reserve are performing with honor, excellence and professionalism under harsh and life-threatening conditions. Let us never forget them or their dedication to our country.

To all the Soldiers of the Army Reserve, to your families and employers, and to our great civilian employees, thank you for serving the United States of America. The challenges we face are great, but our determination to overcome them is greater still.

May God bless you all as He continues to bless the United States of America. Happy birthday, members of the United States Army Reserve!

LTG James R. Helmly
Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve
Chief, Army Reserve

ARMY RESERVE SOLDIERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

U.S.ARMY

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